

A History Of

# Providence

## United Methodist Church

1849 - 1978

Peninsula District

—

Virginia Conference



AREA BISHOP  
*Goodson*

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
*Ferd Wagner*

VR  
287  
Whi

MINISTER  
*Wade L. Sirk*



### THE SPRING AT PROVIDENCE

This picture taken in 1905 with Mary Custis Ironmonger standing by the spring which was the Church's only water supply for many years. It was located to the west of the Church.

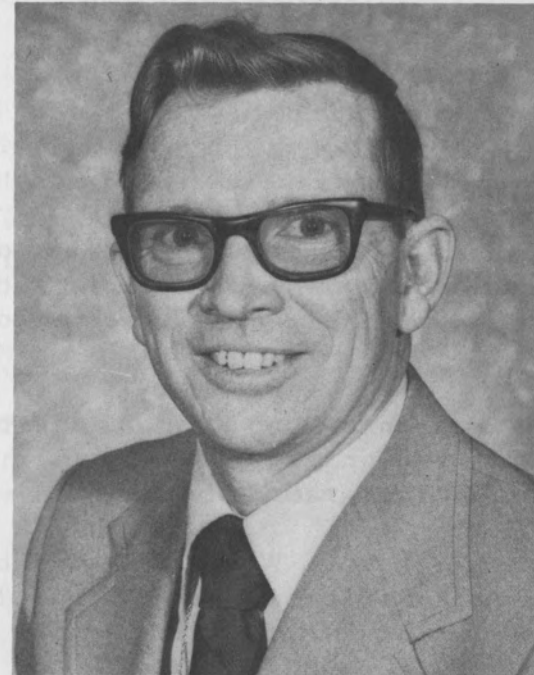
A HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE CHURCH  
1849 - 1978

(Providence United Methodist Church)  
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Providence Church is one of the most wonderful churches I have ever served. I would like to say that in the nearly two years I have been pastor of this church, I have seen the spiritual growth moving constantly.

The Church has built a parsonage which is nearly paid for. This has made the living quarters of the pastor's family one of the most comfortable in the community.

The giving is good, the fellowship is splendid, the Holy Spirit is leading us forward and I believe the Church is in good order.

The Pastor,  
Wade L. Sirk

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First I would like to thank Neva Brooks for her invaluable assistance in the preparation of this book through her ideas and thoughts that helped express the message that I desired to give.

Special thanks to Ada Bright, a member of our church, whose typing skills and knowledge of printing techniques, gave us the final professional touch that was needed to complete this book.

Special recognition is due Mr. John Minter of Formal Masters Inc., Grafton, for his expert help with the photographic work involved in the preparation of this book.

We are grateful that Mr. W. E. Moore and others who are no longer in our midst preserved records of our historical past and also to those among us who contributed bits of information for this history.

Last but not least, to my ever patient wife, Marjorie, for accepting this book as my excuse for not taking care of all the little items of maintenance and repair around the home in recent months.

The preparation of this book has been a "labor of love" for my church. The blessings that I have received in the way of family, friends and good health compensates many times over for the time and effort spent in researching information for inclusion in this history.

Robert E. White  
Chairman, Records and History

## CONTENTS

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| FOREWORD  | 1    |
| HISTORICAL PRELUDE  | 3    |
| PART I  |      |
| Chapter 1 - Origin of the Church  | 6    |
| Chapter 2 - Organization and Growth of the Church                                     | 9    |
| Chapter 3 - Organization and Growth of the Sunday School                              | 21   |
| PART II   |      |
| Chapter 1 - The New Church - Building No. 2   | 29   |
| Chapter 2 - Providence Sunday School - 1883 - 1931                                    | 44   |
| PART III  |      |
| Chapter 1 - Providence Church School - 1931 - 1978                                    | 50   |
| Chapter 2 - Organizations and Societies   | 59   |
| Chapter 3 - Providence Church - 1931 - 1978   | 73   |
| APPENDICES  |      |
| Appendix I - List of Ministers that have Served Providence United Methodist Church    | 91   |
| Appendix II - Official Roll of Providence United Methodist Church as of March 1, 1978 | 92   |





## FOREWORD

Our Country, amid much "Pomp and Pageantry," recently celebrated it's 200th Birthday. It is fitting to note that "Providence Church," in the community of Dare, Virginia has contributed to the spiritual growth of our community and our country for 126 of those years. A Providence Church Building has stood as a monument of hope during some of the darkest periods of that time.

As chairman of records and history, I have attempted, with the help of Mrs. Neva Brooks and other members of the church, to update our church's history. A previous history was compiled in 1950. Several interesting things concerning the early history of our church have been learned since then and have been incorporated in this book. Some of the statistical data included in the previous history has been eliminated so that more emphasis could be placed on telling the story that is "Providence."

It is fortunate that historical records, available in 1950, were located since they would not have been available a few years later.

In 1911 a group collected historical data on the church and it was read by Mr. W. E. Moore, secretary of the historical group, at the annual memorial day services at the church on May 17, of that year. The records state that the historical information was read again on August 12, 1912, at which time all of the notes were placed in a large jar and a "jar sealing service" was held, with the understanding that it would be opened at intervals of about every ten years thereafter. Apparently this rule was not carried out but the notes, in deteriorated condition, were found (still in the glass jar) in the possession of Mr. Moore. These notes contained much valuable information, including the names of the charter members of our church. They were copied and returned to Mr. Moore and the original notes apparently were destroyed when the old home of Mr. Moore was torn down several years later. The writer also found several old quarterly conference record books in the attic of the old parsonage in Grafton. These records would, in

all probability, have been lost since the parsonage was later sold to a private owner. One of the record books dates back to 1852 and contains information relating to Zion and Tabernacle Churches also. This book was used in compiling the history of these churches.

We are deeply indebted to all of those in the past, both clergy and laity, who gave so much of their time and their talents to leave us the heritage that is "Providence".

It is very difficult to determine what highlights out of 127 years to incorporate within a few pages, especially by nonprofessional writers, but it is hoped that all who read this book will be inspired to greater spiritual leadership that they may inspire and lead others by their own teachings and exemplary conduct.



Robert E. White

## HISTORICAL PRELUDE

### Geographical Background

Before we delve into the origin of Providence Church, let us review the history of the area and especially the community in which our church is located.

As we know from history, our first permanent English settlement was at nearby Jamestown. We also know that the desire to worship as they pleased was one of the motives that caused the early settlers to leave their native shores and come to this land of wilderness with its many dangers. From the very beginning at Jamestown, the colonists worshipped under improvised shelter in a grove of trees.

The growth of the colony was slow, hampered by disease, bitter weather and hostile Indians, but gradually expanded to nearby Williamsburg (then known as Middle Plantation) and into other local areas. In 1634 the Virginia Colony was divided into eight shires or counties, which were to be governed as the shires of England. One of these counties was known as "Charles River," taking its name from the Charles River, which was named in honor of King Charles I, of England. This river was later re-named York River and still bears that name. In March 1643, Charles River County was re-named York County. Each county was divided into parishes, and in 1657, the areas now known as Tabb, Dare, Grafton, Seaford, etc., were within the boundaries of Charles River Parish.

The foundation of the old parish church is maintained by the APVA. It is located just to the West of the Old Bethel Baptist Church at Tabb, Virginia. Landon Bell's "Charles River Parish," contains the birth and death dates of many of the people that were in the area during the years from 1648 through 1789.

Several large plantations once comprised most of the area that we now know as the "Dare Community." One of these, known as the "Tabb Plantation," which extended from Chismans Creek to what is now Lakeside Drive and including our present church site, was acquired in 1846 by a Methodist family from

*Presented to York Co.  
Library - Apr. 1, 1980  
R.E. White*

Mathews County. This plantation played an important part in the future of "Fish Neck," as the area was then known. A brief story of this family is given in Part I of this book.

#### Introduction of Methodism in the Area

The established church of England, prior to and during the Revolutionary War, was known as the "Anglican Church." Few of these churches survived during the Post Revolutionary War Era and the ones that survived became known as "Episcopal Churches." Our ancestors were members of, or under the influence of, the Church of England. Even if they did not tend to be ardent followers of the faith, they paid their part to the church, since by law, they were assessed, originally in pounds of tobacco; later by money, based on the number of males in the household over 21, the number of slaves owned, etc. These funds were used to support those in the parish with little or no means of caring for themselves.

We are all familiar with John Wesley and the origin of the Methodist Societies in England. Many years before the actual formation of the Methodist Church in this country, at the Christmas Conference in Baltimore in 1784, several pioneer Methodist Preachers or "Circuit Riders" as they were called, had visited the area. George Whitfield preached at Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg in 1739 and some years later Joseph Pilmore recorded in his diary that he visited Yorktown in 1772, not meeting with much success. Roger Williams is credited with organizing the first Methodist Society in the area, at Williamsburg, in 1782. It was not until this time that Methodism began to gain many converts.

Francis Asbury had a great influence in spreading Methodism during his several visits to the area in the latter part of the 18th Century.

Another important factor was the population shift during the early part of the 19th Century. Many of the old families moved away after the Revolutionary War for various reasons and many people moved to this area from the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Others came from places such as Mathews and Gloucester Counties. These people came from areas where

Methodism had gained an earlier foothold. There was a great revival in Mathews County in 1797 and it is stated that during the years of 1805-06 more than 1,000 persons were converted at camp meetings on the Eastern Shore. These people, therefore, brought their religion with them.

Cyrus B. James, an ardent Methodist from Mathews County, came to the Poquoson area of York County in 1811. He was licensed, made a local deacon and was influential in organizing the first Methodist Church in York County in 1817. This church, still known by its original name of Tabernacle, is the mother church of Methodism in York County. He was also instrumental in the organization of Zion Church in "Crab Neck" (now Seaford) in 1822. Mrs. J. W. Ironmonger in her "Thomas James Genealogy" states that a fairly large number of descendents of Thomas James entered the Methodist ministry and some became ministers of other denominations. Thomas James was Clerk of Kingston Parish in Mathews County and was the father of Cyrus B. James.

It is believed that Methodist on the "Fish Neck" side of Chismans Creek crossed the creek by boat, weather permitting, to attend services at Zion, after that church was organized in 1822.

Naturally, these Methodist wanted their own meeting house and after a few years and an interesting set of circumstances, outlined in Part I of this book, their dreams became a reality.



Ordination of Francis Asbury at Christmas Conference in "Lovely Lane" Meeting House, Baltimore, Md. - Dec. 27, 1784.



# A HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE CHURCH 1849-1978

## Part I

### Chapter 1

#### ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH

The Tabb Plantation previously mentioned, owned by Mr. William Tabb, was offered for sale in 1845, so that he could move to Yorktown and thereby obtain the services of a Miss Abbie Jenck, a tutor, who had recently arrived from Brooklyn, New York. This incident is mentioned to show the concern this man had for the education of his children and also to point out the first incident or circumstance leading to the realization of a church in the community. Mr. Thomas Hudgins, who had moved to the community from Mathews County a few years earlier sent word for his brother-in-law, Edward Davis, to come over and view the property, which was said to contain much valuable timber.

Mr. Davis looked at the property and without his wife being present, put up a sizable, nonreturnable deposit on the property. When he went home and told his family what he had done, they were dismayed and he would have forfeited the purchase except for the loss of the large down payment.

After they decided to move, they set sail in January 1846 with their six daughters, ranging in age from 6 to 18, their slaves and all of their personal belongings. A few months after their arrival a seventh child was born, a son, whom they named John Edward. One of the daughters, writing many years later, told of the many hardships that they suffered at their home on Chismans Creek. The main dwelling was not as good as the one that they left in Mathews County. The slaves quarters were drafty and several of these much loved servants died from pneumonia. The family had much sickness and was broken in spirit. Mr. Davis finally agreed that they would sell the property and return to Mathews, but he departed his earthly life, after a short illness, on September 6th of the same year that he arrived in "Fish Neck".



Artist conception of the Davis Family's arrival in "Fish Neck" - From painting by Mrs. Melissa White.

THE HURRICANE - A hurricane was the final circumstance leading to the formation of a church in the community. As the saying goes, "It is an ill wind that doesn't blow good to somebody". The family still intent on returning to Mathews, had his body placed in a boat and prepared to sail, when a "Nor'easter" came, lasting almost a week; thereby making it necessary to inter his body on the farm. Mrs. Davis then decided to stay in the community. Her decision resulted in the formation of Providence Church, since Mr. Davis, during his short stay in "Fish Neck", selected a place on his farm that he thought would be suitable for a church site and had so advised his wife. After his death, Mrs. Davis made known her husband's wishes and gave one acre of land for that purpose.

This property wasn't officially deeded to the church trustees until 1851. Perhaps the family wanted to be certain that the new church was on "solid rock" prior to deeding the land. It was deeded by the two oldest daughters, Mary Ann and Sarah and her husband, who were executors of the estate. In the clerks office of York County, Deed Book number 15, page 55, is found a deed of bargain and sale, dated, February 24, 1851 - for one acre of land between Alexander Weston and Sarah F. Weston, his wife, and Mary Ann Davis, parties of the first part, to Thomas D. Hudgins, Samuel D. Ironmonger, Alexander Weston, James Wilson, John R. Chandler, Peter Shields and Whittington Crockett, Trustees, parties of the second part.

Mrs. Davis decision to stay also had considerable impact on the makeup of the population of the community and adjacent areas, since five of her daughters and the son, John Edward, married in the community. Some descendants were active in the formation and progress of other churches, such as Central Methodist in Hampton. Fifth and Sixth generation descendants are worshipping at Providence.



Artist conception of "Providence Church #1"  
(From painting by Mrs. Melissa White, wife  
of Rev. Robert E. White, Jr.)

## Part I

### Chapter 2

#### ORGANIZATION AND GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

For a brief period after the death of Mr. Davis, nothing was done towards building a house of worship but apparently things got started in earnest by 1849, since the records state, "With the help of the good people of the community, a church building, 24 feet wide and 30 feet long was erected and made ready for religious services before the end of 1849." Mr. A. B. Smith was the contractor and builder. This building stood about 125 feet West of our present sanctuary. It had a balcony for the servants who desired to attend the worship services.

**NAMING THE CHURCH** - After the building was completed, the selection of a name for the new church was considered. Several names were suggested, among them the name, "Ephesus," which was strongly favored by some. Brother Thomas D. Hudgins suggested the name "Providence," stating that he thought it a providential circumstance that Mr. Davis had moved to the community and if he had not come to the place there would not have been, at that time, any Methodist Church in the neighborhood. Mr. Hudgins suggestion was adopted, and the new church was named Providence.

**CHARTER MEMBERS** - As far as can be ascertained, there were thirty-nine charter members of the congregation, the names of whom are as follows: Thomas D. Hudgins and wife; Alexander Weston and wife; William A. Nottingham and wife; John R. Chandler and wife; James Wilson, wife and daughter; Robert Wilson and wife; Mrs. Amelia Davis and two daughters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth; Mrs. Nancy Walters; Revel Walters and wife; John W. Sterling and wife; Mrs. Rachel Morgan; John Morgan and wife; William B. Martin and wife; Curtis Messick and wife; John Wainwright and wife; Mrs. Catherine Smith; Mrs. Mary Walters; Mr. George Dunton and wife; Kemp Charles and wife; and Thomas Chandler.



### THREE CHARTER MEMBERS OF PROVIDENCE



Mrs. Amelia Davis  
(She gave the land)



Thomas D. Hudgins  
(He named the church)



Mrs. Catherine Smith  
(There are presently about 60 of her descendants on the rolls of Providence, ranging from Bristow to Zobel)

Much of the information that was available and useful in compiling a church history from this point on, was taken from old quarterly conference records, which included activities of the other churches on the charge. It was practically impossible to separate the activities of Providence, since all of the churches had the same minister, stewards, trustees, etc. Reports by ministers usually involved the whole charge. Reports and transactions thought helpful in telling the story of "Providence" have been printed.

The names of all the ministers that have served the church have been printed near the end of this book and their names only appear otherwise in a pastor's report or in some highlight of the church's history.

The first minister to serve, from 1849 - 1851, was Rev. John S. Briggs. The second minister, Rev. George W. Trimyer, 1851 - 1852, married Miss Rosanna Davis, daughter of the late Edward Davis. They later settled in "Cockletown," now known as Grafton, Virginia. Family tradition is that he preached "Fire and Brimstone."



Rev. George Trimyer and wife Rosanna from a very old Daguerreotype owned by Mr. Edward Trimyer of Atlanta, Georgia.

The first quarterly conference for 1852 was held at Tabernacle Church on February 7, 1852. It was decided at that meeting that the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the circuit for the year would be as follows: For the Preacher-in-Charge, \$113.40; for the Presiding Elder, \$55.00 and that it should be apportioned in the following manner - Tabernacle, \$75.00; Zion, \$62.00 and Providence, \$31.40.

At the fourth quarterly conference for 1852; on the motion of Rev. Robinson, J. R. Chandler and W. A. Nottingham were appointed as a committee to try to collect the money due on subscriptions toward paying for Providence Church.

At the third quarterly conference held at Providence, July 29, 1854, the stewards of the circuit passed an examination of character and were approved. They were as follows: Cyrus B. James, William A. Nottingham, John R. Chandler, Whittington Crockett, Thomas C. Emory, Arthur B. White and Peter Shield.

At the first quarterly conference held at Zion, February 2, 1855, it was decided that \$244.00 would be the amount needed to defray the expenses of the circuit for that year. To meet these obligations Tabernacle was assessed \$100.00; Providence, \$40.00; Zion, \$85.00 and Yorktown, \$25.00

At the end of the conference year 1855-56, Providence was the only church meeting its obligations. Tabernacle fell short by \$1.75, Zion by \$14.88 and Piney Grove by \$1.70. Piney Grove seems to have been another name for the Yorktown Church.

On August 17, 1858, the third quarterly conference for that year, was "held for York Circuit on the Camp Ground in York County." The location of the campground is not known but records show that the Presiding Elder, Rev. D. S. Doggett, and the Preacher-in-Charge, Rev. James E. Joiner, were present. Also present were Rev. Cyrus B. James, Local Elder, 72 years of age at that time and one of the founders of the three Methodist Churches that comprised York Circuit. Rev. George W. Trimyer, Local Elder and Rev. John W. Shield, Local Deacon; Cary James; Hind Holloway and William A. Nottingham, Exhorters, were also present. These men could be termed "Lay Speakers" by modern day church terminology but they were men

that were filled with the "Holy Spirit" and through their testimonies and exhortations contributed much to the conversion of souls.

These "Camp Meetings" usually lasted about a week and required much preparation. Tents had to be provided and set up and in some cases the men spread fish nets over a frame, then placed leaves and boughs over the nets to provide shade. These were known as "arbors." The women also made their contribution to the success of the meetings as they sang and prayed and prepared the delicious meals over the open fires.

The old records are full of notes pertaining to conversions and baptisms at the "Camp Meetings"; perhaps Methodism may need to get back to the "basic teachings" that gave inspiration and zeal to these people. Our present pastor is placing much emphasis on "Evangelism." In fact the entire "Methodist Structure" seems to have become more aware of this vital part of its mission.

*At A Meeting of the board of trustees of Providence Church held at the Church July 18<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1859 present Wm Robinson Preacher in charge Thomas E. Hudgins, Robert Wilson, James R. Walton, A. Weston, Arthur B. White & John R. Chandler the following business came before the board being the board being full we resolved to have it satisfied by the court Bro. Weston was appointed to attend to that business the board resolved to pay Mr. Giddings balance due him for plastering Church in two weeks past*  
*Arthur B. White Secy*

*The Board of trustees are as follows*  
*John R. Chandler*  
*Samuel E. Ironmonger*  
*Alexander Weston*  
*Thomas E. Hudgins*  
*Arthur B. White*  
*Robert Wilson*  
*Eustis Mepick*  
*James L. Walton*  
*James R. Walton*

Copied from old Trustees Record Book - 1859

The circuit stewards stated that the money needed for 1860 would be as follows:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| To the Preacher for salary . . . . .               | \$ 150.00 |
| To the preacher's wife for salary . . . . .        | 150.00    |
| To the preacher's child for salary. . . . .        | 25.00     |
| For the preacher's traveling expenses . . . . .    | 42.00     |
| For the preacher's servant hire. . . . .           | 36.00     |
| For the preacher's board @ \$25.00 a month . . . . | 300.00    |
| For the Presiding Elder. . . . .                   | 100.00    |
| TOTAL  | \$813.00  |

At the fourth quarterly conference for 1860, the preacher reported that he had received 20 new members during the last quarter and expelled one.

The following reports were made in regards to the churches: "Tabernacle Church is in good condition, out of debt and a full board of trustees - Providence is in tolerable good condition, out of debt and a full board of trustees - Zion is in bad condition but has a full board of trustees."

It appears that the fourth quarterly conference for 1861, held October 30 at Zion, was the last conference to be held until after the conflict.

The terrible "War Between the States" took its toll on the church and community. Several young men who had been active in the work of the church lost their lives, including the former Sunday School Superintendent and Steward of the Church, A. B. White. According to the memoirs of his brother, John F. White, Arthur White called several of them together prior to their entry of the battle of Antietam, also known as Sharpsburg, in Maryland, and asked if they were prepared for death in case they didn't emerge safely from the battle. They answered in the affirmative and after the battle, J. F. White had the sad task of burying his brother Arthur and a brother-in-law, William Sidney Freeman, of Poquoson.

After the war, John F. White, rededicated his soul to the work of the Kingdom. He was ordained as a local preacher in 1866 and did much good in his church and community for many years.

Shortly after the 1950 history had been printed Mr. Edward Purgold gave to this writer a photostatic copy of a letter which read as follows:

"No person belonging to this command shall under any pretext, destroy or disfigure in any way the church known as "Providence Church on Fish Neck; in the County of York, or remove any property belonging to the same, signed: E. D. Keyes, Major General Commanding, 4th Corps"

- Apparently this letter was obtained at the request of members of the church since Zion Church in nearby "Crab Neck," had been used as a stable and destroyed by Union forces.

Copy of letter signed by Major Keyes preventing Providence Church from being destroyed by Northern Troops.



Because of the chaotic times during the war, no regular ministerial appointments were made. The churches on the charge were served, occasionally during that time by the Rev. John W. Shields, a local preacher of the charge. During the last three years of the war he was said to be the only Southern Methodist Minister below Williamsburg, where he rendered good service.

After serving as a Chaplain in the Confederate Army, Rev. R. N. Crooks came to the charge, in the fall of 1865, as his first assignment in the Virginia Conference and served for three years. After two years, served by Rev. Joseph Leah, Rev. Crooks returned, serving this time for four years. He is interred in our church cemetery.

As the church membership grew, it became necessary to enlarge the church building, so in 1866 an addition of 25 feet was added to the length of the building, making it 55 feet long.

Apparently no more quarterly conferences were held on the circuit until after the war, since the next meeting listed in the record book was for the first quarterly conference for 1866, held at Tabernacle on March 17. Stewards were elected at this meeting and on the motion of Brother John R. Chandler, a committee was appointed to take measures towards building a church for the Zion and Providence congregation on Stage Road near Cockletown.

On motion of Brother Whittington Crockett, a committee of five, consisting of Cary W. Crockett, Cyrus W. James, S. D. Ironmonger, John F. White and Fred P. Crockett, was appointed to take measures towards building a church in Crab Neck, in case the first committee did not succeed in erecting the church specified in the first resolution.

The preachers salary for 1866 was set at \$340.00, Providence being assessed \$100.00 of this amount.

It was resolved at the first quarterly conference in 1867 that in order to promote the cause of missions, the subject be brought before each of the regular church meetings and that all churches report to each quarterly conference the amounts contributed for this cause.

The amount necessary to defray the expenses of the Circuit for 1866-67 was set at \$835.00. Of this amount Tabernacle was assessed \$275.00; Zion \$210.00; Providence \$210.00; and Hampton and Fox Hill \$120.00. This was the first time that Hampton was listed as being on the circuit.

In the minutes of the second quarterly conference which met at Fox Hill, June 29, 1867, the membership of the circuit was listed as 514 White and 1 Colored.

Fox Hill hadn't been on the circuit prior to the war and apparently did not stay on the circuit very long.

The fourth quarterly conference for 1868 was held at Providence on October 24. Brother John F. White was recommended as a suitable person to receive a license to preach. This recommendation was granted.

The character of the following stewards for Providence was passed upon and they were approved for the following year. They were: John R. Chandler, Thomas D. Hudgins and J. C. Wainwright. Kemp Charles was elected Trustee for Providence in place of J. R. Walter, expelled by trial.

At the first quarterly conference at Tabernacle, March 6, 1869, it was resolved that the pastor should divide the members of the different churches into classes and appoint a collector for each class, requesting that each member should contribute at least twenty-five cents per year for the cause of missions. Note: The classes referred to above were not Sunday school classes.

In the minutes of the second quarterly conference for 1870, held at Fox Hill, it was stated that \$184.00 was raised at Providence to pay a debt on said church and to furnish the same. (They were probably referring to the 25 foot addition which had been built on the church).

At the third quarterly conference for 1870, the pastor described the general state of the church as "not very satisfactory," with a lamentable neglect of family worship. It was reported that one member was expelled for intemperance.

The following committee was appointed to select a site and solicit subscriptions to build a parsonage for the charge: G. W. Trimyer, Samuel D. Ironmonger, Edward Hopkins and Henry Watkins.

At the fourth quarterly conference for 1872, the committee on having a parsonage built made the following report: "We, your committee, appointed at the conference to raise or secure funds to build a parsonage at Cockletown, beg leave to report that we have in money and subscriptions to the amount of \$985.62." The following men were appointed as trustees for the parsonage to be built or bought for York Circuit: Edward Hopkins, Wilton Wilson, W. C. Messick, J. C. Wainwright, Robert Wilson, John R. Chandler, Thomas Crockett, Asa Shield and F. P. Crockett.

The board of Trustees of Providence made this report: "We the trustees for Providence, beg leave to report our house in good condition - worth about \$1,000.00 and will seat 300 persons; repairs have been made this year. Board of Trustees full" - Signed, J. R. Chandler, Chairman.

The preacher's salary for 1873 was set at \$700.00 and \$110.00 for the Presiding Elder, a total of \$810.00. Providence was assessed \$202.50 of this amount.

At the first quarterly conference for 1873, held at Zion, the preacher reported: "There are 166 males and 309 females, making a total of 475 members on the rolls of the circuit; of this number, 313 are married, 36 widows and 126 single. The majority of these are pious christians and I believe, stirring to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom. There is some irregularity among the members. There are none now selling intoxicating liquors, that I know of; but there are some who drink at public bars and it is to be feared some drink to intoxication. There is some disposition, among some of the younger members to encourage and participate in worldly play parties and mimic dancing and foolish song singing which are so hurtful to Godliness. Attendance upon public worship is tolerable good when the weather is favorable and the roads passable. Prayer and class meetings are not well attended."

At the second quarterly conference for 1873, held at Providence on April 26 of that year, Rev. R. N. Crooks submitted the following report which was read and adopted and is as follows: "We your committee, appointed to build a parsonage at Cockletown, beg leave to submit the contract between Rev. G. W. Trimyer and ourselves for his residence and ten acres of land at Cockletown. We are happy to say this contract has been complied with and the Preacher is living in the parsonage. Furthermore, we would state that there has been expended \$35.00 on the house for repairs. Other repairs are necessary and will be done as soon as the money can be collected."

The article of agreement, read as follows:

Articles of agreement, made and entered into this 10th day of March 1873, between George W. Trimyer and Anna W., his wife, of York County, Virginia, of the one part and William Tignor, J. C. Wainwright, Edward Hopkins, Wilton Wilson, and R. N. Crooks appointed a committee by the quarterly conference of York Circuit, to build or buy a house for a parsonage to be held by trustees in trust for the M. E. Church, South of the other part. Witness, that the said George W. Trimyer and Anna W., his wife, agree to and with the said Committee, that they, the said George W. Trimyer and Anna W., his wife, will sell the said committee ten acres of land including the dwelling house and all other appertunances thereon, situated at Cockletown, in York County, Virginia, for the sum of eight hundred dollars, good and lawful money of the United States, to wit, five hundred dollars, to be paid by the 10th day of April 1873, and the other three hundred dollars with interest on or before the 1st day of January 1874 and the said George W. Trimyer and Anna W. Trimyer, doth covenant and agree to give possession to the said committee on or before the 10th day of April 1873, and doth further agree and bind themselves, their heirs, that on the payment of the said three hundred dollars they will execute to the before mentioned trustees, for the M. E. Church, South, a good and lawful deed of the County of York and State of Virginia, and to the above agreement, we doth severally bind ourselves, as witness our hands and seals this 10th day of March, 1873. Signed by: George W. Trimyer, R. N. Crooks, William R. Tignor, A. W. Trimyer, Edward Hopkins and Wilton Wilson.



At the third quarterly conference for 1873, the preacher's report read as follows: "Through the past quarter our regular appointments have been filled in general with good congregations and very good attention to preaching. The Lord's Supper has been administered in the several churches, but not as well as it ought to have been, - not over two-thirds, I don't believe, attend this Holy Service, an indispensable means of Grace. Prayer meetings are held at all the churches and occasional class meetings. We have reason to fear that family prayer is fearfully neglected by the large majority of our Methodist families."

In 1879-80, thirty years after the organization of the church, the membership was 161.

Very little information is available for the years from 1874 to 1883. The church years from 1883-1931 are covered in Part 2, Chapter 1 of this book.



The first parsonage for use by York Charge purchased in 1873 as it looks in 1978.

## Part I

### Chapter 3

#### ORGANIZATION AND GROWTH OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

It appears that a Sunday School was organized during the very early days of the church. There was an active Sunday school in 1852, as indicated in the following report by the Preacher-in-Charge at the fourth quarterly conference for 1852: "There are on this Circuit three Sabbath Schools, under the control of three Superintendents, three Assistant Superintendents and eighteen teachers, with one hundred and four students." He also stated that he felt great concern for the rising generation and trusted that the Sunday Schools would be of great benefit to the young people. Mr. W. A. Nottingham, Sr. served as the school's first superintendent.

As previously stated, the old quarterly conference records contain information relating to all of the churches on the charge and to try to separate the activities of Providence from the others would, in some cases, destroy the relationship among the various Sunday schools.

We who have easy access to church and Sunday School should feel somewhat guilty when we try to formulate an excuse for staying home, when we realize what our ancestors had to endure when they traversed, either by horse and buggy, boat, or on foot, to reach their place of worship. Note the following: At the fourth quarterly conference, held August 6, 1853, at Providence, Rev. William A. Robinson, the Preacher-in-Charge reported that all Sabbath Schools were in operation but he was sorry to say that there was a declination in all of them due to the heavy rains which had been so constant for the past few weeks, making the way so wet, and there were so many ticks, all of which caused the Sunday Schools to be thinly attended both by teachers and pupils. He stated that he was hopeful of improvement.

The following report was given by Rev. D. W. Laney at a quarterly conference held at Providence, July 14, 1855. "We have done something for the Sabbath School cause since our last quarterly meeting, but not as much as we would like to have done. We have organized two additional schools both of which are in a prosperous condition and raised some twelve dollars for the purpose of buying Sabbath School books. We now have four Sabbath Schools in operation, but there is much room for improvement in some of them. Our prayer is that we may succeed in doing much good in this glorious cause."

It appears that the Sunday Schools rose and fell with the seasons, flourishing in good weather and disbanding in cold weather. In the minutes of the third quarterly conference for 1857, it was stated in the preacher's report that three Sunday Schools were in operation and in flourishing condition and the report from the next meeting read thus: "At this time, we have one Sabbath School located at Tabernacle Church in successful operation and doing a vast amount of good. The schools at Zion and Providence have long since been disbanded and given us an act which we have cause to lament and seek forgiveness at the hands of God. I have urged upon the parents the necessity of dedicating the children to God in Holy Baptism."

At the first quarterly conference in 1859, held at Providence, the preacher presented the following resolution which was adopted: "I am sorry that facts constrain me to report that there are no Sabbath Schools in operation on the circuit whereas in my opinion there should be three in successful operation all through the entire year. The dense population of this country obviates all the difficulties which sparsely populated places might plead in defiance of discontinuing Sabbath Schools during the winter season, including the multiplicity of people crowded into neighborhoods and the numerous quantity of children growing out of this fact call loudly for Sabbath Schools to be continued during the entire year, because unless children be employed usefully on the Sabbath they will be engaged in unlawful employments. I would, therefore, suggest that we as a quarterly conference enter into a resolution to commence our Sabbath Schools immediately, say on the first Sabbath in the month of March, and that hence forth we endeavor to continue them during the winter."

At the third quarterly conference for 1859, held at Tabernacle, the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools were praised by Rev. Robinson. His report reads as follows: "The Superintendents of the schools are untiring in their efforts to do the church good in this department of her own interests. Brother Giddings at Zion is doing well under the circumstances, the affliction of his family and other obstacles hinder him, yet the school which he superintends is growing in interest. Brother Arthur B. White, the superintendent at Providence, deserves high commendations. The school under his supervision is gaining in numbers, knowledge and in piety. The school at Tabernacle under the supervision of John F. White excels the others. It is much larger than the other schools because of the interest the people take in it. The schools at Providence and Zion are both very deficient in books."

The earliest Sunday School records available for Providence indicate that Arthur B. White, Sr. was superintendent in 1861. The following notes were taken from an old journal entitled: "Sabbath School Journal, Commencing 1861."

Class 1 - Girls: - Teacher, Sophia Dozier

Pupils - Elvira Ironmonger, California Chandler, Eugenia Hudgins, M. E. Sterling, Allis Ironmonger and Matilda Colonna

Class 1 - Boys: - Teacher, William H. White

Pupils - William Weston, John Wainwright, Theophilus Hudgins, Samuel Ironmonger and Alpheus Pumphrey

Class 2 - Girls: - Teacher, Mary E. Hudgins

Pupils - Cittura Hudgins, Rosetta Weston, Catherine Sterling, Elizabeth Moore, Sarah Ironmonger, Sarah Davis and Mary Walters

Class 2 - Boys: - Teacher, Robert White

Pupils - John Walters, Charles White, Tiberius Pumphrey, Alexander Walters, Samuel Walters and Columbus Ironmonger

Class 3 - Girls: - Teacher, Miss E. V. Davis

Pupils - Martha Hudgins, Lauretta White, Virginia Moore, Elmira Wainwright, Virginia Sterling and Kessie Walters

Class 3 - Boys: - Teachers, A. Weston and W. Ironmonger

Pupils - James Wilson and William Walters

Class 4 - Girls: - Teacher, Elizabeth Ironmonger

Pupils - Eudora White, Ann Weston, Rebecca Smith, Celestia Crockett and Susan Carmines

Class 4 - Boys: - Teachers, Thomas French and John R. Chandler

Pupils - Edward Trimyer, Carvossa Trimyer, Thomas Hudgins, William Wainwright and Frank Watson

At the fourth quarterly conference, held October 30, 1861, at Zion, the preacher reported that the Sunday School at Providence was in successful operation but the others had been discontinued on account of the present troubles. The Presiding Elder stated that in his opinion the state of religion on the circuit was declining, owing principally to the war.

As stated in the previous chapter, due to conditions in the community during the war, church activities were drastically curtailed.

At the fourth quarterly conference for 1868, held at Providence on October 24, Rev. R. N. Crooks made the following statement on Sunday Schools: "There are four schools on the Circuit, which were in a favorable condition, until the sickly season began. Since then the schools have been thinly attended, on account of chills and fevers."

The following were officers and teachers of the schools in 1869: J. F. White, Superintendent, John R. Chandler, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary and W. H. White, Director

of singing. Teachers of the male classes were: Robert W. Crockett, Robert Wilson, Hardy Wornom, W. T. Wainwright and W. H. White. Teachers of the female classes: Miss E. V. Davis, Miss Eugenia Hudgins, Miss Mattie Hudgins and Miss Cassie Walters. The number of officers and teachers was 13 and number of scholars was 44.

The preacher's report on Sunday Schools at the third quarterly conference for 1870 read as follows: "There are now eight schools in successful operation, at Zion, Providence, Tabernacle, Little Tabernacle, Smithville, Fox Hill, Hampton, and a very feeble one at Yorktown, Virginia."

The records show that in 1871 there were five teachers of male classes with thirty four students and seven teachers of female classes with forty students.

Classes and teachers were as follows:

#### Male Classes

#### Teacher:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| "Holy Club"        | G. W. Trimyer      |
| "Gideon's Band"    | Robert W. Crockett |
| "Spies"            | W. T. Wainwright   |
| "Little Prophets"  | H. W. Wornom       |
| "Little Disciples" | S. Wainwright      |

#### Female Classes:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| "Jephtha's Daughters"  | Miss E. V. Davis                                     |
| "Roses of Sharon"      | Mrs. Mattie C. White                                 |
| "Sisters of Mercy"     | Miss Mattie A. Hudgins                               |
| "Friends of Jesus"     | Miss Cassie Walters                                  |
| "Little Pilgrims"      | Miss E. F. Nottingham and<br>Miss Buenavista Charles |
| "Daughters of Bethany" | Miss Ellen Weston                                    |

J. R. Chandler was superintendent in 1872, with J. C. Wainwright as his assistant. On the motion of J. F. White the school adopted the name of "Hope Sunday School." No record can be found of changing the name, therefore, as far as the records are concerned it is still the official name of the Sunday School.



At the first quarterly conference for 1872, held at Providence, the preacher's report on Sunday School reads as follows: "There are five schools in operation that meet each Sunday as the weather permits." The following resolution was passed: Resolved, that each school patronize our church literature, published at Nashville, Tennessee.

At the first quarterly conference for 1873, held at Zion, it was reported that only two schools were open, Providence and Little Tabernacle. The other three were closed for the winter and for want of a house to meet in.

William Sterling is listed as being the Sunday School Treasurer in 1874. This appears to be the first year the finances of the school needed the care of a treasurer. On February 9 of this year, the school first conformed to the schedule for services as set forth in the magazines.

In 1876, Albert F. Hudgins was elected Superintendent. Teachers of male classes were: A. W. Powell; Simeon Elliott; Samuel Ayers; Robert Wilson; W. H. Howard; and William A. Nottingham. Teachers of female classes were: Miss E. V. Davis; Miss Mattie Hudgins; Mrs. R. C. Bunting; Miss E. J. White; Mrs. Rosetta Howard and Mrs. Sarah Wilson.

In December of that year the collections for the four Sundays were 5 cents, 2 cents, 15 cents and 11 cents respectively. The amount of the bond required of the treasurer is not given.

In 1877 the quarterly conference appointed J. C. Wainwright as Superintendent with A. W. Powell as Assistant. J. E. Davis took Brother Powell's place as teacher of Male class No. 1.

Excerpts of interest for the year 1880:

April 18 - it was decided that the school would meet with other schools on anniversary occasions. May 15 - A collection was taken for missions amounting to 15 cents. June 20 - The school voted down a proposition to take an excursion to Old Point. July 4 - The number of scholars on roll were: 50 males and 44 females. Teachers of male classes 7 and female classes 5.

The records show that W. H. Howard was Superintendent in 1882 with J. J. Nottingham as his Assistant.

Further information on the progress of the Sunday School during the period of the second church is given in Part II, Chapter 2.

*Providence  
Sabbath School Journal  
Commencing 1861  
A. B. White Sup.*

*Class No. 1. Boys—*  
Teacher *E. W. Howard*  
*Sophia Dozier* { *2* *Elizabeth Spurringer*  
*3* *Christina Chandler*  
*4* *Virginia Hudgins*  
*5* *Wm. E. Howard*  
*6* *Miss Livingston*  
*7* *Mattie Collins*

*Class No. 1. Boys—*  
Teacher *Wm. H. White* { *Wm. Weston*  
*John Wainwright*  
*Thophilus Hudgins*  
*Samuel Livingston*  
*Alpheus Pumphrey*

*Class No. 2. Boys—*  
Teacher *Mary E. Hudgins* { *Cittara Hudgins*  
*Rosetta Weston*  
*Catharine Shattuck*  
*Elizabeth Moore*  
*Sarah Livingston*  
*Sarah Davis*

*Class No. 3. Boys—*  
Teacher *Robert White* { *John Walter*  
*Charles White*  
*Thophilus Pumphrey*  
*Alexander Walter*  
*Samuel Walter*  
*Alpheus Livingston*

Copied from "Sabbath School Journal - 1861"

SECOND PROVIDENCE CHURCH  
ERECTED IN 1883



The last day this church building served its parishioners was a very warm Sunday, July 19, 1931. It was Sunday School as usual with all officers and teachers except one present. At the afternoon worship service, Rev. H. F. Justis received 10 persons into membership: Robert Olson, Harvey Crane, Hayes Hogge, Linda Green, Marvin Green, William Green, Elmer Hall, Edward Hall, John F. Smith, Jr. and Henry Gibbs. Epworth League Service in the evening had a record attendance of 68 with John Burcher presiding. Ida Moore, Ora Green and Emma Burcher took part in the program with Edith Wood rendering a solo, "Have Thine Own Way Lord."

Part II

Chapter 1

THE NEW CHURCH - BUILDING NO. 2

By the year 1880 it was evident that a larger house of worship was needed. The congregation decided that it would be more feasible to erect a new building than to enlarge and make repairs to the existing structure.

After some planning and fund raising, a contract in the amount of \$600.00 was awarded to Mr. Fowler Hamilton. The building, which was erected about 125 feet East of the old church, was completed in 1883.

At the second quarterly conference, held at Providence May 19, 1883, the trustees were authorized to sell the old church building and use the proceeds to defray part of the debt on the new building. The old building was sold to Mr. T. J. Crockett of Grafton, Virginia, who moved it to his premises and used it for a store building. This building later became the property of Mr. E. A. Amory and was used in his business of bottling soft drinks. The remains of this building were torn down in 1949.

In the fall of 1883 Rev. J. S. Morris was sent by the conference to serve York Circuit. Being a Northern man, he was not too popular with the people on the circuit and only remained one year.

In 1884, Arthur B. White, a grandson of Edward and Amelia Davis who gave the original plot of ground for the church, sold to Alexander Weston, R. W. Crockett, J. F. White and Thomas D. Hudgins, Trustees of the church, one and one half acres of land adjoining the original one acre. (See Deed book No. 20, page 475, Clerks Office, York Co., Va.)

At the fourth quarterly conference for 1884, held at Tabernacle, the following report was made on the condition of churches: "The Trustees of Providence Church report the church



in good condition and worth \$1500. Trustees from Zion Church report church in good condition and worth \$1000. Trustees of Tabernacle report a new church just finished and worth \$2000."

At a meeting of the board of Stewards of York Circuit held at Tabernacle Church on December 30, 1884; on motion of Brother Wainwright, the salary of the preacher was fixed at \$700 for the following year, with \$30 for traveling expenses; Presiding Elder claims \$110, making a total of \$840. This amount was divided equally among the four churches. NOTE: The fourth church was Trinity which was being built and was completed before February 21, 1885. The second conference for 1885 was held at Trinity on that date.

The third quarterly conference for 1885 was held at Providence, May 23, with Rev. William E. Judkins, Presiding Elder, Presiding. The following were present: Rev. J. E. McSparran, Preacher-in-Charge; Rev. John F. White, Local Preacher, J. C. Wainwright, T. D. Hudgins, S. D. Ironmonger, L. M. Ironmonger, William H. Howard, T. B. Shields, Stewards; B. F. Watson, Exhorter; Alex. Watson, S. C. Ironmonger and William R. Tignor, Class Leaders.

It was stated in the minutes of this meeting that Trinity Church had been dedicated to the worship of God by the Rev. R. N. Sledd, free of debt, the church cost \$1700.

In the report "State of the Church" at the fourth conference for 1885 it was reported that the spiritual state of the church was good. Many members were requesting membership to the various churches because of recent revivals. Twenty applied for membership at Providence, it also stated that many backsliders came forward as penitents and professed to be reclaimed.

The following resolution was adopted at this conference on behalf of Thomas D. Hudgins, who died during the preceding quarter. It is thought suitable to print it here since he was an active member of Providence Church. He suggested "Providence" for the name of our church. The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas God in his wisdom and love has removed from our midst our Brother in Christ Thomas

D. Hudgins, and whereas Brother Hudgins was for many years a member of this body. Therefore: Resolved, 1st: That we in this quarterly conference assembled acknowledge our sense of bereavement in the death of Brother Hudgins who for many years served the church in the office of Steward.

Resolved, 2nd: That in the death of Brother Hudgins the church has lost one of its most exemplary members, and the county one of its most useful citizen.

Resolved, 3rd: That while we bow with humble submission to that Providence which is too wise to err and too good to be unkind, we will cherish the memory of Brother Hudgins and endeavor to follow his example.

Resolved, 4th: That we are grateful to God that he was permitted to testify to the sufficiency of Divine Grace to sustain him in the dying hour.

Resolved, 5th: That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be spread upon the journal of this conference and also a copy transmitted to the family of the deceased."

Signed: J. E. McSparran  
John F. White

Rev. J. E. Potts was sent by the conference in the fall of 1890 and served four years.

At a meeting held February 9, 1891 the following were appointed trustees for the Parsonage Property: J. Y. S. Slaight, R. W. Crockett, W. H. W. White, Edward Bradshaw and William H. Howard. The Preacher in his report on the state of the church made the following statement: "The people of York Circuit are a pious and religious people comparing favorable with any people under the sun."

The following notes were taken from Rev. Pott's report on the "State of the Church," at the first quarterly conference for 1892.

"There is a little commotion just now among the whiskey men. The pastor has preached at every church on the evils of

intemperance and some of the whiskey men are not feeling very amiable, but I think good will result to the church."

At the first quarterly conference for 1893 he made the following report: "The congregations were very large until this severe weather began. Even during this snow and icy weather the attendance has been good. I have been to every appointment and have preached twice every Sunday since conference, except on Christmas day at Providence, when my son Tommie preached for me, and at Tabernacle on January 15, 1893, when the snow was so deep the people failed to come out, but I was there ready to fill the appointment. I have already made my pastoral visits since conference."

The number of church members within the circuit at the end of 1894 was 999 white and 1 colored, making a total of 1000.

During the appointment of Rev. Potts there arose some controversy among the members of the church and two factions developed. The consequence of this was the building of another place of worship, in Grafton, but after several years the members that had gone to Grafton came back into membership at Providence.

The "Grafton Chapel" was sold for use as a lodge hall, a second story being added later. The building is still used by several fraternal orders.

It is interesting to note that Rev. Potts kept a day by day diary during the four years that he was on the circuit. He made frequent mention of stopping by Wainwright's Store in "Cockle-town", (now known as Grafton,) and the names of many people are mentioned in relation to his work as their pastor. A copy of this diary is kept with our historical records.

Rev. Potts was followed by Rev. C. E. Hobday. It was a very doleful report that he made at a church conference December 29, 1895. It read as follows: "Dear Brethern & Sisters, In presenting this my first report for the conference year, I find that I cannot congratulate you upon the condition of our church. All that I can do is to simply express the hope that it may improve. I regret that I have to say this, but circumstances

compel it. We do not lack members, neither are we lacking in ability, but the indifference and carelessness, manifested by the masses of our members as to church work is appalling; in too many instances the sad fact is made plain that the church and its claims are only secondary. Very few attend the official meetings of the church. At one meeting only four or five were present; although it was storming, we are confident the same weather would not have kept many from attending court, or our young people from a frolic. Take care beloved, God has said he that honoreth me before men, him will I honor before the angel of Heaven. There is no plainer way of denying God, than refusing to do our duty as church members. If our members will but think of their solemn vows, I feel assured more interest would be felt and shown, for no honest man or woman will treat such vows lightly. Our church in the main is almost a dead letter. I am convinced that we allow ourselves to be too much swayed by our passions and prejudices."

It was stated that Providence had a full board of trustees elected at the fourth quarterly conference of 1895 and the names were forwarded to the county court for confirmation.



From baptismal record book that belonged to  
Rev. John F. White, Local Preacher



The following were elected Stewards, Trustees and Class Leaders of Providence Church on October 19, 1895:

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| J. C. Wainwright . . . | Steward & Class Leader          |
| R. W. Crockett . . .   | Steward, Trustee & Class Leader |
| Kemp Charles . . .     | Steward, Trustee & Class Leader |
| J. E. Crockett . . .   | Steward & Class Leader          |
| W. H. Howard . . .     | Steward                         |
| W. E. Weston. . . .    | Steward, Trustee & Class Leader |
| R. F. Amory . . . .    | Steward & Class Leader          |
| J. F. White. . . . .   | Trustee                         |
| T. T. Hudgins . . . .  | Trustee                         |
| W. B. White . . . . .  | Class Leader                    |
| A. B. White . . . . .  | Class Leader                    |

Rev. Hobday's last report for the conference year 1896 stated that, as far as he knew, peace prevailed in the church and the prospect for the coming year was cheerful, but in discussing the various churches of the circuit at the fourth quarterly conference in 1897, he made the following statement concerning Providence: "Providence stands just about as it was when we first knew it. The membership seems to take but little interest, and the work falls heavily on a few. If our people appreciated as they ought their advantages in this work, I think we could easily be the banner charge of our District. Certainly there is no lack of material, or ability in this field. The great need is interest and work."

Rev. J. S. Wallace was sent to the circuit in the latter part of 1897 and stayed only one year.

In his report at the fourth quarterly conference held at Zion, September 24, 1898, he stated that he thought the general state of the church was somewhat improved, although he didn't believe the charge could become what it should be until it was divided. He made the following remarks concerning this: "No one man can give the attention that is necessary for development to as large a membership as there is on this circuit, but with the circuit divided; with the preacher immediately in contact with the people, as would then be the case, he could give his personal attention to the entire work to an extent which is impossible now. This, we think, is about the best and only

way to develop York Circuit, and lift it to a level with many other charges in the conference which have not the real capacity as this circuit now has within itself. We simply give this as an opinion, with the hope that in the near future the people will see their way clear to effect this division."

Apparently this report was taken seriously since in 1902 the two churches in Poquoson, Trinity and Tabernacle became the East York Circuit with a separate ministerial appointment.

Rev. J. W. Baker was the first minister to serve York Circuit after the division, serving three years.

It is interesting to note that the circuit in which Providence is located was first known as York and Warwick Circuit and continued as such until 1855. After 1855 it was known as York, except for a short time from about 1868 until 1871 when it was known as York and Hampton Circuit. After 1871 it was known as York and has continued by that name.

The following were listed as Stewards of Providence Church in 1905-06: R. W. Crockett, A. W. Powell, L. M. Ironmonger, W. E. Weston, E. T. Charles, J. C. Wainwright and J. L. Hogge.

It was resolved at the fourth quarterly conference for 1910 that the official board of York Circuit petition the presiding Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference, to be held at Richmond beginning November 9, 1910, to remove this charge from Rappahannock to the Norfolk district, for the good of the said charge.

The following resolution was passed at the first quarterly conference for 1910-11, held February 6, 1911: "Resolved that the Board of Trustees of Yorktown Church are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow money, or accept a conditional donation or both, from the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, not exceeding the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) for the purpose of building a church at Yorktown and to secure the repayment of the same by mortgage upon the property held in trust by them; upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between said trustees or a majority of them and said board of Church Extension." This

is mentioned since several families that moved from "Fish Neck" to the Yorktown area; who were members of Providence, were among the charter members of the above mentioned church, which was named "Crooks Memorial" after Rev. R. Nelson Crooks.

At about this time, actually in 1908, Rev. John F. White, a local preacher in Providence, was instrumental in organizing "White's Memorial" Methodist Church at Morrison, Virginia. He had two daughters living in the area and spent some time visiting them; thereby having time to help organize the church. This church later became Morrison Methodist Church which is now a large active church on the Peninsula District.

At the fourth quarterly conference in 1911 Mr. R. W. Crockett, who for 40 years had been a steward of York Circuit, feeling that the infirmities of age prevented his active work, resigned his office. The quarterly conference by unanimous vote agreed that his name be kept on the roll of honorary stewards.

For the year 1913-14 the stewards of Providence were as follows: Edward Charles, C. E. Crockett, J. E. Davis, Lee Hogge, Jessie Hudgins, L. M. Ironmonger, W. E. Weston and J. C. Wainwright.

In 1913 Mr. Arthur B. White gave the church one-half acre of land, adjoining the church property and running in an easterly direction along Dare Road.

In 1918 Rev. A. B. Warwick was sent as a supply preacher for one year. It seems that the preacher who originally received the appointment couldn't get the consent of his wife to live in a rural area. He came to the charge during the cold winter of 1918 and according to this report, had quite a job in finding a congregation to preach to. His report on the state of the church was as follows:

"I came to the charge on Friday, January 4. On the first Sunday, January 6, I preached to a good congregation at each church. On the second Sunday, January 13, I preached to a fair congregation at Providence in a very cold church, and went

within a mile of Zion when I was told by one of the stewards that it was useless to go further for they had no wood, and there would be no congregation; in the morning they had scarcely enough wood for Sunday School. I turned back against my own judgment, and afterward learned that about 40 persons had assembled for preaching.

On the third Sunday, January 20, arrangements were made for me to go to Zion in a car, but the man backed out Sunday morning and notified me when it was too late to make other arrangements. The snow storm continued all day, and I concluded it would be useless for me to walk to Providence.

On the fourth Sunday, January 27, I went to both churches only to find closed doors and nobody, save that I met one steward returning from Providence, who informed me there was no fire and nobody at church. I went on, however, and waited until after 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, February 3, I walked to Zion, the person who had engaged to take me in a buggy having backed out at 9:40 A.M., but found no one there and no fire. As you see I have had little opportunity to learn about the State of the Church.

On January 19 I tried to hold the Annual Stewards Meeting, but only 4 out of 17 came, and they took no action.

I hope and pray for better weather and to be able to make a more encouraging report at the next Quarterly Conference."

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. Warwick, Preacher-in-Charge

In 1918 the officials of the church were as follows:

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. B. Warwick . . . .  | Preacher-in-Charge              |
| A. W. Powell . . . .   | Steward & Class Leader          |
| J. J. Nottingham . . . | Trustee, Class Leader & Steward |
| W. E. Weston . . . .   | Steward, Trustee & Class Leader |
| J. E. Davis . . . .    | Steward                         |
| J. F. Hudgins . . . .  | Steward                         |
| B. E. Watson . . . .   | Steward & Class Leader          |
| F. L. Hogge . . . .    | Steward & Class Leader          |



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| J. F. Smith      | Steward & Class Leader   |
| Jethro F. White  | Class Leader   |
| William E. Moore | Sunday School Superintendent &<br>Secretary of Church Conference |
| Rev. J. F. White | Local Preacher   |
| D. D. White      | Trustee  |
| John E. Wornom   | Trustee  |

Rev. D. W. Jackson came to the charge in the fall of 1918 and stayed four years. While here, his daughter Ethel, married Mr. Kirby T. Smith, Sr. Members of that family have been active in the church for many years.

At the third quarterly conference for 1919 Rev. Jackson reported the general state of the church as being good, with large numbers partaking of the Holy Communion.

Mr. A. W. Powell, J. J. Nottingham and A. B. White were appointed at a quarterly conference meeting in 1919 to supervise the church cemetery and the digging of graves therein.

At the fourth quarterly conference of 1920, held at Zion Church, a resolution was unanimously adopted to request Bishop Hendrix to return to the charge, the present pastor, Rev. D. W. Jackson.

In April 1921, the Church Trustees acquired 1/8 acre of land, across the road from the church, as a gift from Mr. Albert S. Dawson and his wife, Mary L. Dawson.

Another deed granted a piece of land of the exact size and dimensions and bordering the land specified in the above deed was signed by A. B. White. These two blocks of land combined formed a lot across the road from the church 31 yards on the main highway and 35 yards deep. This was the second parcel of land given by him, all of which was a part of the land previously owned by his grandfather, Edward Davis.

The board of stewards estimated that the amount necessary for the support of the preacher for 1922-23 would be \$1500 and was divided among the churches as follows: Zion \$700, Providence \$650 and Yorktown \$150.

A committee composed of W. E. Hogge, L. O. Powell and E. C. Crockett was appointed at the fourth quarterly conference in 1925 to investigate the exact status of the Boards of Trustees for each church and the parsonage on York Circuit and to report to the first quarterly conference of the new conference year. They found that it was uncertain from court records exactly who had been confirmed by the court as trustees and recommended that new trustees be appointed for each church and the parsonage.

Their recommendation was accepted and those appointed were confirmed at a circuit court held for the county of York, at the courthouse in Yorktown on April 6, 1926, the Honorable Judge Thomas B. Robertson, presiding. The following order was entered: "It appearing to the court that the proper authorities of York Charge, Norfolk District, Virginia Conference, of the M. E. Church, South, has nominated and appointed the hereinafter named persons as trustees, to hold the legal title to the Parsonage property of said Charge and the property of each of the churches on said Charge; and it further appearing that it is uncertain who the trustees of record are, and the nomination and appointment of aforesaid trustees will make certain who the trustees of aforesaid property are, the court doth confirm and appoint in the place and stead of those who now are trustees of aforesaid property the following persons:

C. W. Ironmonger, S. C. Ironmonger, J. E. Wornom, F. D. Crockett, A. B. White, L. O. Powell, B. F. Watson, D. C. Worster and J. I. Wainwright, trustees to hold the legal title to the Parsonage property of said Charge; D. D. White, J. E. Wornom, W. E. Moore, B. F. Watson, J. F. Smith and L. O. Powell, trustees to hold the legal title to the church property of Providence church on said Charge.

Trustees were also appointed for Zion and Crook's Memorial.

The preacher's salary was set at \$1700 for the conference year 1926-27, Providence being assessed \$605 of this amount.

At the second quarterly conference for 1927 a building committee consisting of the following people: E. C. Crockett,



J. E. Wornom, Jethro F. White, W. H. Colonna, J. T. Burcher, W. E. Moore, Mrs. C. P. Wornom, Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Mrs. Lillie Parker, Mrs. R. F. Wainwright, Mrs. Irma Ironmonger and Mrs. S. A. Lindsay was appointed to look into the matter of having Sunday School rooms built.

This seems to have been a first for Providence. Nowhere in prior records can women's names be found as being members of any official committee of the church, except women's organizations.

The second quarterly conference for 1928-29, held at Providence, April 22, 1929, gave the building committee of Providence authority to proceed in the matter of erecting a new church building.

Rev. Harry F. Justis came to the charge in 1928 to fill the unexpired term of Rev. S. J. Brown, who died suddenly while walking across the yard at the parsonage in Grafton.

Rev. Justis was affectionately called the 'Boy Preacher' since this was his first full-time ministerial appointment. He seemed to fit right into the proposed building program with enthusiasm, and was well liked by the congregation during his four years on the charge.

The following were elected stewards for 1920-31: W. E. Moore, W. H. Colonna, J. T. Burcher, J. F. Smith, J. E. Wornom, D. D. White, H. W. Spencer, J. F. White and P. G. Green; E. C. Crockett elected Charge Lay Leader and Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Church Lay Leader.

The following excerpts are from Rev. Justis pastor's report at the second quarterly conference in 1930: 'The work of the entire charge continues to show improvements. The parsonage has been wired and electric lights put in. These improvements have been highly appreciated by the Pastor and his wife.

Plans are being formulated for revivals at all 3 churches in the early future. At which time we hope to receive many new members into the church." His remarks seem to reflect the

enthusiasm and optimistic outlook at this particular time in the life of "Providence."

At the first quarterly conference for 1931 another building committee was appointed consisting of Rev. Justis, W. E. Moore, J. F. Smith, Mrs. Lucy Lindsay and Mrs. Emma Burcher to take the necessary steps in regards to building a new church.

At the second quarterly conference for 1930-31 held at Providence, April 13, 1931, a motion was made and approved that all parties owning grave enclosures in Providence cemetery be notified to remove said enclosures within 30 days from time of notification and in the event of enclosures not being removed by that time the trustees of the church would have authority to have the enclosures moved.

At a church conference held for Providence on April 12, 1931, Rev. H. F. Justis, Presiding, the following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas Sister Lillie Nelson Parker, who for a long period of time was a devoted friend to Providence Church, has recently departed this life, and by her will bequeathed to said church the sum of \$1000 to be used in building, or repairing said church as the members think best, and,

Whereas Mrs. Lucy Lindsay, Mrs. Emma Burcher, J. F. Smith, W. E. Moore, and Rev. H. F. Justis have heretofore been appointed and confirmed for the purpose of building a new church building for the said church, and,

Whereas the said building committee contemplates beginning a new church building without delay,

Be it resolved that it is the sense of this meeting of the members of said Providence Church that the above named building committee petition the Circuit Court of this York County, to direct W. H. Howard and J. E. Wornom executors of the will of said Lillie N. Parker to pay the sum of \$1000 to J. F. White, Treasurer of Providence Church to be used for the purpose of building a new church building for said church and this second

quarterly conference for York Charge is requested to adopt this resolution, and to affirm the action of the church conference in adopting the resolution."

A motion was made and approved at the third quarterly conference for 1931 that the board of church extension be requested to make a donation of \$1000 toward the erection of a new church at Providence.

The building committee was instructed, at this meeting, to accept the bid of C. C. Vellines to build a new church, and to enter into contract with said Mr. Vellines.

Providence Church No. 2 served the people of the community for many years but because of the increase in the size of the congregation there was need for more room. The members finally decided that the best solution was to build a new church. As the old must eventually give way to the new, the church was razed to make room for a larger, more efficient place of worship.

While the new church building was under construction, Church Services and Sunday School classes were held in Dare-Grafton School and the Grafton Lodge Hall, previously built for a church, was temporarily called back into service. Progress of the new church is outlined in Part III, Chapter 3.



Historical Treasures



Copy of front cover of 1883 Sunday School Quarterly

Copy of front cover of 1890 Children's Day program



## Part II

### Chapter 2

#### PROVIDENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL--1883 - 1931

In 1883 the Officers and Teachers of the Sunday school were as follows: A. W. Powell, Superintendent with J. C. Wainwright as his Assistant; J. E. White, Secretary and W. A. Sterling, Treasurer. Teachers of male classes: J. F. White, R. W. Crockett, J. E. Davis, W. E. Weston, W. A. Sterling, T. T. Hudgins and Charles Tignor; for female classes; Miss E. V. Davis, Miss Mattie Hudgins, Mrs. Virginia Ayers, Miss Bertha Sterling, Miss Mollie White, Mrs. Bunting and Mrs. M. G. Thornton.

It was strongly urged at the fourth quarterly conference in 1883 that all schools use the Methodist Catechism in connection with lesson papers.

No Sunday School records are available for the years of 1884 through 1888, but the Superintendents during that time were A. W. Powell and R. W. Crockett.

It was stated at the first quarterly conference for 1892 that the Sunday Schools were in good condition and that the schools at Providence and Trinity deserved special mention. The pastors report on Sunday Schools at the first quarterly conference for 1893 reported that more people attended Sunday School than there were members of the church.

In 1895 J. E. White was Superintendent and W. E. Moore, Assistant; James H. Thornton, Secretary; A. B. White, Treasurer; Mrs. M. G. Thornton, Organist; Miss Mattie A. White, Assistant Organist. Teachers of male classes: Rev. J. F. White, Miss Mattie Hudgins, Major L. M. Ironmonger, Thomas Mason, Mrs. Sarah Lindsay and Mrs. Virginia Ayers. Teachers of female classes: Miss E. V. Davis, Mrs. M. G. Thornton, Miss Mattie A. White, Miss Carrie Ironmonger, Mrs. Maggie Watson.

On January 27 of this year a statement of the finances for 1894 reads as follows: Regular Collection \$23.08, Childrens Day \$2.05, Christmas Entertainment \$6.85, Total \$35.98.

At the second quarterly conference for 1895 the following report was made by Rev. C. E. Hobday in regards to Sunday Schools: "We have five Sunday Schools in successful operation. Our schools would be much more effective if our members as a whole would take interest in our work. Our observation is that on days of regular service many of our members will stand out of doors discussing general news and other topics while the schools are seeking earnestly for teachers. We have material in abundance but are sorry to say the interest in general is lacking. We hope to see a great improvement in this respect."

The fourth quarterly conference for 1896 met at Zion on September 26. The following report was made in regards to Sunday Schools: "Our Sunday Schools number four, one at each appointment. Their state is fair but ought to be much better. Our people are not a unit in their work; unfortunately there is more or less jealousy and criticism as to leadership and administration. This handicaps the willing workers and so impairs the efficiency of this work. Were our people to lay aside such feeling and willingly do their best, no matter who might be the leaders, we soon would have flourishing Sunday Schools that would be a source of both pride and joy. Pastoral instruction of children has been attended to."

W. H. Howard was the new superintendent beginning with 1897. J. E. White, the superintendent previous to him, having entered the Virginia Conference. W. B. White was the Assistant Superintendent during this year.

The second quarterly conference for 1898 met at Providence on April 9 of that year. Rev. J. S. Wallace was the preacher at that time. In his report on the condition of Sunday Schools he made the following statement: "The Five Sunday Schools on this charge are in fine condition. We have taken the trouble to inquire into the condition of the various schools since the last quarterly conference and find them well organized and in good order. Two of the schools have considerably improved during the past quarter, namely Providence and Trinity, while Zion,



Tabernacle and Goodwins Neck are doing nicely. The best of all, however, is that thirty of the members of Providence School have professed conversion and united with the church."

J. S. Nottingham was Superintendent in 1900 with A. W. Powell as Assistant, J. E. Wornom, Secretary; A. B. White, Treasurer; B. C. Charles, Librarian; Miss Cosmus P. Powell, Organist; Teachers of male classes, Rev. J. F. White, L. M. Ironmonger, Miss Cosmus T. Powell, Mrs. Virginia Ayers and Captain A. W. Powell. Teachers of female classes were: Mrs. J. J. Nottingham, Miss Carrie Knight, Miss Carrie M. Ironmonger, Miss Fannie Howard and Mrs. Maggie Watson.

There seemed to be a steady decline in the number of scholars on roll, the number decreasing from 129 in 1896 to 84 in 1902.

The following report was made on Sunday Schools at the second quarterly conference for 1907-08, held at Zion on April 25: "The Sunday School work is progressing since the winter has passed and spring has returned."

Benton C. Charles was Superintendent in 1909, assisted by W. E. Moore. On June 6 of that year, the new Sunday School at Waterview was presented a number of song books.

Much of this chapter is based on the findings of the previously mentioned historical committee's report in 1911. The following statement appeared at the end of this report: "We believe that we are possessed of more of the grace of giving than we were in former years. Perhaps it is because our needs are greater. From May 1, 1879 to May 1, 1880 there was raised in the Sunday School for all purposes \$3.75. We raised about \$40.00 last year (1910). This year we want to raise at least \$50.00.

We believe the Sunday School is progressing and accomplishing a great deal of good. We give the glory to God.

It is our pleasure to honor those who have honored God with long and faithful service. We would, therefore, honorably mention the names of such as Brother W. A. Nottingham, Sr.,

the first and faithful superintendent of the school; Brother J. R. Chandler, who served long and faithfully at different times as Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary for the school; Miss E. V. Davis, whose faithful labors as teacher of female class No. 1 for about 40 years can be rewarded only by the giver of Heavenly Gifts. Brother J. F. White, our honorable and venerable president of this association, who has given 50 years or more of earnest, living, consecrated service to the school; Brother J. C. Wainwright who gave many years of earnest, consecrated labor in behalf of the school; Brother L. M. Ironmonger, for his long and faithful work in the interest of the Sunday School; Brother R. W. Crockett, who has given the best of his years to the work and whom God spares yet to be with us; Brother Thomas D. Hudgins, who gave many years of his life to the Sunday School and Church; Brother W. A. Nottingham, Jr. who served the school faithfully for many years as Superintendent, Secretary and scholar; Brothers Robert Wilson and Thomas Chandler and Mrs. Mary A. White, the only three surviving charter members of the school; Mrs. Emily Smith for her earnest, faithful work as teacher; Brother James K. Martin, one among the oldest and most faithful scholars of the school; Brother A. B. White, who has been our faithful, trusted and efficient treasurer for twenty years; Mrs. M. G. Thornton for her faithful labors as organist and teacher; Brother J. E. White, who labored so earnestly and efficiently to promote the welfare of the school; Brother A. W. Powell, who has served the Sunday School for many years, always lovingly and cheerfully, and a host of others that might be mentioned, but we leave it to posterity to sing their praises.

May the great shepherd who has led us through all the years of our past, lead on to paths of yet greater usefulness."

Respectfully Submitted

Signed by: J. J. Nottingham, J. E. Wornom, A. B. White, Stanley Wornom and W. E. Moore, Secretary of Providence Historical Association

Total Sunday School collections for the year 1912 amounted to \$74.90.

It was stated in the Sunday School report at the first quarterly conference for 1914, held at Providence on February 23,

that there were 2 Sunday Schools in active operation on the charge, both in flourishing condition. Two others were reported in operation within the bounds of the charge, but not within organized churches; one at Yorktown and the other at Goodwins Neck school house. The number of scholars on roll at the end of 1914 was 100.

By 1919 the scholars on roll numbered 150. The offering amounted to \$170.40, a gain of \$90.76 over the previous year. The records for this year indicate that W. E. Moore was Superintendent until November 23, at which time D. D. White began serving in that capacity. Miss Emma Presson was Secretary; A. B. White, Treasurer; Cary Lindsay, Librarian, Mrs. Harry Spencer, Organist; Miss Mollie Martin, Superintendent of the cradle roll. The teachers were as follows: Male classes - W. E. Moore, teacher of the Men's Bible Class, with J. J. Nottingham, Assistant; Miss Mollie Martin, Class No. 2; Mrs. Sarah Lindsay, Class No. 3 and Mrs. John Martin, Class No. 4. Teachers of the female classes were: Mrs. J. J. Nottingham, Class No. 1; Mrs. Lillie Parker, Class No. 2; Mrs. Harry Spencer, Class No. 3 and Miss Mamie Davis, Class No. 4.

The offering for April 11, 1920 amounted to \$16.94. This offering exceeded by about \$10.00 and other single offering for that year. Scholars on roll at the end of 1920 numbered 170. Number of officers and teachers 20. The roll was called 48 times during the year.

D. D. White continued as Superintendent in 1921. Miss Lucy Green was elected Secretary and Allen Davis, Librarian. The ladies organized a Wesley Bible Class composed of 22 members during the year.

W. E. Moore became Superintendent in 1925 with W. H. Colonna as his assistant. E. G. Moore was Secretary; D. D. White, Treasurer; Calvin Green, Librarian; Mrs. Delia Spencer, Organist; Marchant Wornom, Assistant Organist; Mrs. S. D. Ironmonger, Superintendent of Cradle Roll. Teachers of male classes were R. N. Howard, Wesley Bible Class; Mrs. W. E. Moore, teacher of No. 1; Mrs. S. A. Lindsay, No. 2, Mrs. S. D. Ironmonger, No. 3 and Mrs. J. G. Martin, No. 4. Teachers of female classes were as follows: Women's Wesley Bible

Class was taught by Mrs. Ellen Nottingham. Mrs. Lillie Parker was teacher of Junior Women's Bible Class; Mrs. Delia Spencer, No. 1; Mrs. Mary Wainwright, No. 2, with Mrs. Sadie Wainwright as assistant and Miss Mollie Wilson was teacher of No. 3.

The offering for September 16, 1928 was \$15.20, being the largest offering for any Sunday during that year. Most of the lessons during that year pertained to the life and teachings of Paul.

In 1929 the number of scholars on roll for the various classes were as follows: Men's Bible Class - 36, Young Men's Fidelis Class - 18, Male Class No. 3 - 10, Women's Bible Class - 20, Women's Jr. Bible Class - 18, Always Ready Class - 15, Female Class No. 1 - 10, Female Class No. 2 - 12; Total on roll 156.

Rev. Justis made the following remarks concerning the Sunday School at the second quarterly conference in 1930: "The Sunday Schools are well-organized and attendance has been better during the spring months. Our Superintendents are very faithful and are fully supported by our Officers and Teachers."

In 1931 there were 160 scholars on roll with 20 officers and teachers. Collections for the year amounted to \$104.40.

Information concerning the work of the Sunday School from 1931 to the present is given in Part III, Chapter 1.





### Part III

#### Chapter 1

#### PROVIDENCE CHURCH SCHOOL 1931 - 1978

The new church building was completed in December 1930 with nice classrooms in the basement. These classrooms added very much to the efficiency of the Sunday School, since prior to this, the classes had to meet in little groups in the church sanctuary where they could not completely separate themselves from each other, making it hard to concentrate. Some assembled outside, weather permitting. An open sided pavilion stood for many years just a little to the East of the church and was used as a classroom for the men.

The Sunday School of that day was a very vital part of the church, since Preaching Services were not conducted every Sunday, the minister having two other churches to serve. Opening exercises were held in the Sanctuary with all classes attending, after which the classes would assemble in their respective groups for the morning lesson. These opening services continued through the 1950's and were then replaced by separate devotionals by divisions, children, youth and adult. Except for the Children's Department, it later evolved into each class having their own devotional exercises.

Until recent years, lapel pins were given for attendance. Classes also held banners for attendance and offerings. These incentives were later discouraged for fear that too much emphasis was being placed on the award rather than on the real purpose for attending Sunday School. It is felt, however, that they may have served a good purpose.

In 1932 the officers and teachers of the Sunday School were as follows:

|                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| W. E. Moore . . . . .     | Superintendent                    |
| J. P. Wornom . . . . .    | Assistant Superintendent          |
| Davis W. Martin . . . . . | Secretary                         |
| William White . . . . .   | Asst. Secy. and Keeper of Records |

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mrs. J. E. Wornom . . . . .     | Organist                      |
| Mrs. S. D. Ironmonger . . . . . | Superintendent of Cradle Roll |

#### TEACHERS OF MALE CLASSES

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| J. P. Wornom . . . . .        | Men's Bible Class |
| E. G. Moore . . . . .         | Fidelis Class     |
| Mrs. W. S. Dawson . . . . .   | Number 1 Class    |
| Miss Mary Lou White . . . . . | Number 2 Class    |
| Mrs. Eunice Wood . . . . .    | Number 3 Class    |

#### TEACHERS OF FEMALE CLASSES

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Ellen Nottingham . . . . . | Wesley Bible Class               |
| Miss Mamie Davis . . . . .      | Assistant for Wesley Bible Class |
| Mrs. R. F. Wainwright . . . . . | Junior Women's Bible Class       |
| Mrs. J. E. Wornom . . . . .     | Always Ready Class               |
| Mrs. S. W. Dawson . . . . .     | Number 1 Class                   |
| Mrs. Ruth Sparrer . . . . .     | Number 2 Class                   |

Every fourth Sunday the Sunday School offering was applied to the Building Fund.

On January 7, 1934 the Banner for attendance went to Female Class Number 1 and the banner for offerings went to Fidelis Class. The number of scholars on roll on this date was 168, Officers and Teachers 17.

In 1935 Miss Margaret Green was teacher of male class Number 2. Mrs. Mary Burcher became teacher of the Women's Wesley Bible Class and a third class of girls was organized with Miss Lois Moore as teacher. Amount in the Sunday School treasury on January 7, 1935 was \$3.13; the offering for that Sunday amounted to \$6.83, making a total of \$9.96.

In 1936 Mr. W. E. Moore continued as Superintendent with John Burcher as Superintendent of the Adult Division, Mrs. Ida Moore as Superintendent of the Young People's Division, Mrs. Ruth Sparrer as Superintendent of the Children's Division. On January 5 of this year the offering amounted to \$6.62.

In 1939 the Sunday School membership was listed as follows:



|   |     |
|---|-----|
| General Officers and Teachers . . . . .                 | 18  |
| Children's Division (Ages: Birth to 11 yrs.) . . . . .  | 41  |
| Young People's Division (Ages: 12 to 23 yrs.) . . . . . | 53  |
| Adult Division (Ages: 24 and up) . . . . .              | 73  |
| TOTAL   | 185 |

On December 22, 1940 the offering amounted to \$11.56. Class Number 10 (Men's Bible Class) had the largest attendance and offering, they were 17 and \$4.60 respectively. Subject of their lesson was "Sharing the Shepherd's Joy."

Sunday School Statistics for the year ending September 1945 were as follows:

#### ENROLLMENT

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Nursery Department - Age Birth to 3 . . . . . | 16       |
| Children - Age 4-11 . . . . .                 | 47       |
| Youth - Age 12-23 . . . . .                   | 19       |
| Adults - 24 and over . . . . .                | 126      |
| Officers and Teachers . . . . .               | 18       |
| TOTAL   | 226      |
| Average Sunday School attendance . . . . .    | 100      |
| Total amount of offering for year. . . . .    | \$350.36 |

The official Church School Roll for 1948-49 was as follows:

#### OFFICERS

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Mr. William White . . . . .    | General Superintendent                 |
| Mrs. Ida Moore . . . . .       | Superintendent Adult Division          |
| Miss Neva Burcher . . . . .    | Superintendent Young People's Division |
| Mrs. Ruth Sparrer . . . . .    | Superintendent Children's Division     |
| Miss Francis Burcher . . . . . | Secretary                              |
| Mr. Robert Riley, Jr. . . . .  | Assistant Secretary                    |
| Mrs. Etta Farmer . . . . .     | Treasurer                              |
| Mrs. Delma Bristow . . . . .   | Organist                               |
| Mrs. Delia Spencer . . . . .   | Assistant Organist                     |

#### TEACHERS

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. Myrtle Moore . . . . . | Nursery Class   |
| Mrs. Ruth Sparrer . . . . . | Beginners Class |

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Etta Farmer . . . . .      | Primary Class                       |
| Mr. Robert White . . . . .      | Juniors Class                       |
| Mrs. Mollie Dawson . . . . .    | Intermediates Class                 |
| Mrs. Emma Burcher . . . . .     | Young Women's - Loyal Workers Class |
| Mr. Merritt Moore . . . . .     | Young Men's - Fidelis Class         |
| Mrs. Sadie Wainwright . . . . . | Young Women's - Always Ready Class  |
| Mrs. Mary Buchanan . . . . .    | Lillie Nelson Parker Class          |
| Mrs. Etta Martin . . . . .      | Woman's Bible Class                 |
| Mr. D. D. White . . . . .       | Men's Bible Class                   |

Church School attendance showed an increase in the late 40's and people seemed to show more pride and interest in the classes. On April 23, 1950 there were 282 names on the Church School Register and on several occasions the attendance surpassed the 200 mark. The Men's Bible Class became so large that it had to meet in the sanctuary of the church. Their attendance on February 12, 1950 showed 64 members present.

Members of the Commission on Education for the church year 1953-54 were: M. B. Mitchell, Mrs. Ora Green, Mrs. Harry Spencer, Mrs. Ida Moore and the Sunday School teachers. This commission came into being along with other commissions in the overall Methodist Church Structure, its purpose being to select and approve teachers and literature and act as an overall guide in the operation of the Church School.

The following were elected as officers of the church school at the first quarterly conference for 1960-61:

|                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| R. E. White . . . . .           | Church School Superintendent       |
| S. W. Dawson . . . . .          | Adult Division Superintendent      |
| W. F. White . . . . .           | Youth Division Superintendent      |
| Mrs. W. R. Richardson . . . . . | Children's Division Superintendent |
| Mrs. John Dawson . . . . .      | Chairman, Commission on Education  |

Arthur Layne became Church School Superintendent in 1964. Teachers during that year were as follows:

#### CHILDREN'S DIVISION

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Eva Hudgins . . . . .                           | Cradle Roll (Infants) |
| Mrs. Frances Carter & Mrs. Catherine Moore . . . . . | .0-2                  |

Mrs. Barbara Green . . . . . Nursery: 2-3 yrs.  
 Mrs. Ann Spivey & Mrs. Annie Gardner . . Nursery: 3-4 yrs.  
 Mrs. Myrtle Dawson &  
 Mrs. Frances Estes . . . . . Kindergarten: 4-5 yrs.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Clark & Mrs. Janice Branch . . Elementary: 1-2  
 Mrs. Cornelius Tate & Mrs. Beatrice Fairfield . . . . . 3-4  
 Mrs. Wanda Layne & Mrs. Phyllis Grow . . . . . 5-6

#### YOUTH DIVISION

Mrs. Isabel Hall . . . . . Intermediate  
 Miss Martha White . . . . . Substitute  
 William F. White . . . . . Youth  
 George Brooks . . . . . Older Youth  
 Mrs. Wanda Layne . . . . . Substitute

#### ADULT DIVISION

Joe Hogge & Mrs. Arnetia Dawson . . . Arnetia Dawson Class  
 Mrs. Muriel Bentley & Mrs. Ruth Green. . . Always Ready Class  
 Mrs. Neva Brooks & Mrs. Edith Hogge. . . Ladies Bible Class  
 George Brooks, Philip Clark, Macklin Mitchell,  
 Robert E. White & David D. White. . . . Men's Bible Class

It is not feasible to try to list the names of all who have served as teachers of church school classes in recent years, suffice it to say that their efforts have been rewarding both to themselves and to those whose lives they touched.

Authorities on writing church histories do, however, recommend that this information be given every ten or fifteen years to make it a true history and so that descendants of those listed will take pride, knowing that these people did love their Church and what it stood for and willingly gave of their time and talents to carry on its work.

Joseph J. Hogge was appointed Church School Superintendent for the church year 1966-67 and served through 1969, being the last to serve in that capacity.

Around 1970 our church began using the recommended work area structure. The Work Area Chairman for Education as-

sumed the duties of the previous position fo Church School Superintendent.

Mr. W. E. Moore, who was very devoted to the work of the Church School, served as Superintendent for a total of almost 30 years between 1910 and 1944. A table in the Narthex of the Church was dedicated as a memorial to him.



The Church School Superintendents are listed below in the order in which they served. In some cases the exact dates were not obtainable.

|                       | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| W. A. Nottingham      | 1849-50     | ----      |
| John R. Chandler      | ----        | ----      |
| Arthur B. White, Sr.  | ----        | 1862      |
| W. H. White           | 1862        | 1869      |
| J. F. White           | 1869        | 1872      |
| J. R. Chandler        | 1872        | 1874      |
| J. F. White           | 1874        | 1876      |
| Albert F. Hudgins     | 1876        | 1877      |
| J. C. Wainwright      | 1877        | 1881      |
| W. H. Howard          | 1881        | 1882      |
| A. W. Powell          | 1882        | 1884      |
| R. W. Crockett        | 1884        | 1888      |
| W. A. Nottingham, Jr. | 1888        | 1891      |
| J. E. White           | 1891        | 1897      |
| W. H. Howard          | 1897        | ----      |
| J. J. Nottingham      | ----        | 1901      |
| J. E. Davis           | 1901        | 1906      |
| J. J. Nottingham      | 1906        | 1908      |
| J. E. Wornom          | 1908        | 1909      |
| Benton C. Charles     | 1909        | 1910      |
| W. E. Moore           | 1910        | 1920      |
| D. D. White, Sr.      | 1920        | 1925      |
| W. E. Moore           | 1925        | 1944      |
| W. F. White           | 1944        | 1949      |
| M. B. Mitchell        | 1949        | 1953      |
| R. E. White           | 1953        | 1963      |
| Arthur Layne          | 1963        | 1965      |
| S. W. Dawson          | 1964        | 1966      |
| Joseph Hogge          | 1966        | 1969      |

Several of the children's classes took part in skits during the 125th Anniversary Celebration in 1974. They dressed the part and took the names of children listed in the 1861 "Sunday School Journal."

The Church School is making a noble effort to mold our children after the love and teachings of "Jesus" but the one hour per week cannot compete with all of the temptations that they will encounter. Above all, it takes a Christian Home.

The following are listed by the Educational Department as being teachers of the various classes; showing number on roll, as of March 5, 1978:

#### ADULT DIVISION

#### On Roll

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Men's Bible Class - S. W. Dawson & Everett Eagle . . . . .   | 14 |
| Men's "Fidelity" Class - L. H. Hall . . . . .  | 34 |
| Ladies Bible Class - Neva Brooks . . . . .   | 26 |
| Ladies "Always Ready Class" - Isabelle Hall . . . . .  | 16 |
| Arnetia Dawson Class - Arnetia Dawson, J. R. Dinkins,<br>Wayne Eagle, Wanda Layne, Phyllis Sirk. . . . . | 30 |

#### YOUTH DIVISION

|  |    |
|--|----|
| "Seekers" Class - William and Garnette Doggett . . . . . | 6  |
| Junior and Senior High - James E. White . . . . .        | 24 |

#### CHILDRENS DIVISION

|                                  |                         |     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Grades 5 and 6 . . . . .         | Lillian Smith. . . . .  | 10  |
| Grades 3 and 4 . . . . .         | Carolyn Sadler. . . . . | 11  |
| Grades 1 and 2 . . . . .         | Barbara Green. . . . .  | 14  |
| Kindergarten . . . . .           | Beverly Sirk. . . . .   | 4   |
| Nursery (ages 3 and 4) . . . . . | Marian Hodges. . . . .  | 4   |
| Total . . . . .                  |                         | 193 |

For the records, since their names will not be shown elsewhere in this book, unless they are on the church roll, the names of those in the children's department are listed below:

Grades 5 and 6: Kimberly Fairfield, Catherine Forrest, Lisa Hayes, Wanda Presson, Daniel Green, Patti

Dinkins, Kimberly Lawson, Christine Reynolds, Timothy Moore and Terrill Gilbert

Grades 3 and 4: Patricia Bohannon, DeAnn Fairfield, Michele Fairfield, Rebecca Jones, Lisa Sadler, Everett W. Eagle, III, William Doggett, Thomas Lawson, William West, Michelle Green and Jeffery Rohman

Grades 1 and 2: Monique Brenner, Elizabeth Eagle, Timothy Green, Virginia Nolan, Alan Sadler, Edward Sheppard, Brian Wallace, Okey Wilson, Jr., Karen Remsberg, Thomas Hodges, Adam Moore, Tammy Moore, Jaime White and Charles Hodges.

Kindergarten: Jonathan Hardie, Derek West, Brett Kendle and Deanne Middlebrooks

Nursery (3&4): Cathy Sheppard, Mary Hodges and Angela Wolford.

There is no formal "Cradle Roll" kept at present, but as far as can be ascertained those that would fall in that category, infants to age 3, whose parents are members of the church are as follows:

Jessica Ann Morris, Rachel Yvonne Morris, Diane Margaret Nolan, Leora Nacole Presson, Brian Duncan White, Crystal Dawn Hartman and Rebecca Angela Davis.



Educational Building, built in 1963





Teacher: Janice Fairfield  
Pupils (left to right) Jimmy Bohannon, Jamie Smith, Chris Jones, Steve Jones, Danny Green, David Jones and Tommy Fairfield.



Teacher: Barbara Green  
Pupils (front) Becky Jones and DeAnn Fairfield  
(back) Laura Robinson, Beth Crawford, Nicole Robinson, Shari Yeager, Cindy Green and Patti Dinkins.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES

This chapter is devoted to organizations, past and present, that have been an integral part of our church.

One of the oldest was the "White Rosebud Society". The Rosebud Society was a "Methodist Children's Missionary Society". The local organization, for Providence, was organized on December 18, 1881 with Rev. J. F. White presiding. The name "White Rosebuds" was suggested by Mr. L. M. Ironmonger as being not only symbolic of that beautiful flower but also in honor of Rev. White, an enthusiastic organizer and supporter and its first president. This society progressed and continued for a number of years, raising funds for the cause of missions but finally disbanded.

Women have always been instrumental in carrying out the work of the church and "United Methodist Women" is a key part of the overall "Methodist Structure".

The forerunner of this organization came into being before the turn of the Century under the name "The Women's Foreign Missionary Society" and the group at Providence was organized by Miss E. V. Davis in December 1890. Miss Davis was the first president of this group and Mrs. M. G. Thornton was secretary and treasurer. The first meeting was held at Mrs. Thornton's home in Grafton. By the end of the first year, in 1891, there were 26 members on roll and they raised \$29.10 for missionary work. In 1892 they raised \$42.67, an increase of almost 50% over the previous year. The first member lost by death was Miss Lucy F. White, who died August 2, 1895 and for whom the first memorial service was held. In May 1900 memorial services were held for the past president, Miss E. V. Davis, who had served the society faithfully since its organization.

Mrs. Sarah A. Lindsay became president in 1903, the fifth to serve in that capacity. Previous presidents were Miss E. V.

Davis, Mrs. S. J. Phaup, Mrs. J. W. Nicholson and Mrs. J. W. Baker. Mrs. Lindsay served long and faithfully although she must have been discouraged at times, since the records indicate that some meetings were held with very few attending. The society survived and eventually began to progress under her leadership. There were 50 members on roll in 1923 and the society raised \$69.35 during that year. A total of \$253.59 was raised from all sources for the church year 1933-34.

The society had a branch organization, known as the "Young People's Aid Society". This group raised money for local church work. Several old hymnals can still be found with the stamp: "Contributed by the Young People's Aid Society".

Prior to 1940 there was another organization in the church known as the "Ladies Aid Society" or "Earnest Workers". This group raised funds and helped the church on the local level.

In September 1940, throughout Methodism, the "Missionary Society" and the "Ladies Aid Society" or "Earnest Workers" were combined into one organization and became known as the "Women's Society of Christian Service". Rev. E. W. Rawlings helped to organize the society in our church. It started with 68 members on roll. The following were elected as officers: Mrs. Sarah A. Lindsay, President; Mrs. J. E. Wornom, Vice-President; Mrs. Weldon Moore, Secretary; Mrs. W. F. Wainwright, Treasurer; Mrs. J. T. Burcher, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. John Sparrer, Secretary of Children's Work.

In 1941 Mrs. Sarah Lindsay resigned as president, having served as president of the Missionary Society since 1903 and serving the new organization for one year. In recognition of her faithful service the society presented her with an electric percolator and later that year, on Mother's Day, with a past president's pin. She left her earthly home on February 19, 1948, having served her church faithfully for many years.

Mrs. J. E. Wornom became president in December 1941. She had served as vice president of the Missionary Society and as president of the Earnest Workers for many years. She was a capable and loyal worker and served faithfully until her death in February 1944. Her name was placed on the memorial roll of the society.

Mrs. J. T. Burcher became president after the death of Mrs. Wornom and served through 1948. The society raised \$276.53 for missions and \$106.10 for local work during that year.



Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Mrs. Etta Farmer, Mrs. Delia Spencer and Mrs. Ella Proctor receiving Life Membership Pins in W. S. C. S., 1956.

It is not practical to list the names of all who served in the various offices of the society during the years, but since the records are available and as outlined by Mrs. Ora Green several years ago, the names of those who served as presidents are set forth below:

|         |                |         |                |
|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| 1950-52 | Ruth Sparrer   | 1961-62 | Evelyn Shields |
| 1952-55 | Frances Carter | 1962-65 | Ida Moore      |
| 1955-56 | Ella Proctor   | 1965-66 | Arnetia Dawson |
| 1956-58 | Evelyn Shields | 1966-69 | Ora Green      |
| 1958-59 | Frances Carter | 1969-70 | Emma Burcher   |
| 1959-61 | Ida Moore      | 1970-74 | Evelyn Shields |

Due to the merger of the Methodist Church and the EUB Church, the name of the society was changed to "Women's Society of Christian Service, The United Methodist Church".

The Charter Certificate" issued by Mrs. Harry F. Sommar-dahl, Conference President, dated November 7, 1968 is kept with the historical records.

While Mrs. Shields was serving in 1973, the organization again changed its name. The "Woman's Society of Christian Service" and the "Wesleyan Service Guild", were dissolved to usher in the new "United Methodist Women". The Wesleyan Service Guild was an affiliate group of the Women's Society established for working women. A Celebration Meeting of this change was held on January 14, 1973. Signatures of those attending are given at the end of this chapter.

Emily Lassister became president in 1975, serving until 1977, at which time Mrs. Phyllis Sirk was elected and is still serving at this time.

Methodist Women's efforts are traditionally directed in the areas of Spiritual Growth, Christian Social Involvement, Missionary Education, and Service and Work needed in the local church. These areas are supported by donations of time, prayers and finances.

The 1978 officers of the United Methodist Women, which meets quarterly, are:

President. . . . . Mrs. Wade (Phyllis) Sirk  
Vice President . . . . . Mrs. Earnest (Ruth) Green  
Secretary. . . . . Mrs. Harold (Phyllis) Grow  
Treasurer . . . . . Mrs. K. T. (Lillian) Smith

Mission Coordinators:

Christian Personhood. . . . . Mrs. Lewis H. (Isabel) Hall  
Supportive Community . . . . Mrs. Edward (Annie) Gardner  
Christian Social Involvement. . Mrs. Thomas (Janice) Fairfield  
Christian Global Concerns. . . Mrs. Samuel (Judy) Johnson  
Secretary, Program Resources. . Mrs. Robert (Barbara) Green  
Committee on Membership. . . Mrs. Wallace A. (Bea) Fairfield

Nominations Committee. . . Mrs. Harry (Thelma) Anderson  
Mrs. David (Elizabeth) White  
Mrs. Franklin (Adeline) Presson

The membership of the UMW is divided in four circles which meet monthly. Three of the circles are named for missionaries and one for a former pastor's wife. They are:

Miriam Gruber Circle . . . . . Mary Gravely, Chairman  
Dana Tyson Circle. . . . . Bea Fairfield, Chairman  
Betty Fairbanks Circle. . . . . Frances Estes, Chairman  
Lucy Cocke Circle. . . . . Garnette Doggett, Chairman

One of the unique projects of the UMW last year was the publishing of a cookbook, using recipes collected from the women of the church. The proceeds, amounting to \$1,620, were given to Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, to be used in helping with some of the refurbishing of buildings that would in a small way help the hospital in their program to regain accreditation status. Mrs. Evelyn Shields directed this project.

About 1890 Rev. J. F. White, being a Confederate Veteran and local preacher in the church, obtained the interest and help from others in setting up the "Providence Memorial Society." Its purpose was to care for and decorate the graves of five soldiers who died in the community during the war. The speaker for the first observance was Mr. Baker P. Lee who had served as an officer of the Confederacy during the conflict.

This became an annual affair and for many years was an all day affair. Friends of the church came from far and near to decorate the graves of their departed loved ones.

In recent years the annual service has been held on the first Sunday in May. Throughout the years local ministers and visiting speakers have conducted the "Memorial Day Services."

On May 1, 1977 the annual service was combined with an "Old Fashioned Homecoming" with dinner served outside. The speaker for the afternoon was the Honorable Vernon D. Acree, U. S. Commissioner of Customs. He is a great-great grandson of the Davis family that gave the land for the church. He delivered an interesting and educational address and stated that due to his pending retirement the following week, this would be



his last official address in his capacity as United States Customs Commissioner and that it was ironic that it should be on the grounds that his forbears trod.

It is the present intent to have this Memorial Day-Homecoming combination as an annual event. Bishop Goodson is tentatively slated to be the guest speaker at the event in 1978.

The youth of our church have always been important to the work and growth of the church. Though many have left the community to follow their occupations, the ones who have remained have carried on the work of the church throughout the years.

The present "Methodist Youth Fellowship" is an outgrowth of the old "Epworth League", which went by that name for many years. An attempt to organize a group at Providence was held as early as 1898, as evidenced by an old record book recently located by this writer, with minutes of an Epworth League Meeting which reads as follows: "First council meeting of the "Grafton Epworth League" met at the parsonage on May 28, 1898. It was ordered by the council that the League meet every Sunday night until the second Sunday in June; then it will be changed to the fourth Sunday. The business meeting will be held on Friday night, June 17th at the chapel." - Collection 82 cents.  
Signed: M. A. White, Secy/Treas.

This pre-dates by eight years the following information, researched for the 1950 history as written at that time. The Epworth League at Providence was first mentioned in the minutes of a quarterly conference in 1906 as being recently organized and slowly gaining ground but the organization was not very strong and did not hold together. There is no record of a league being re-organized at Providence until about 1921.

Rev. Jackson stated in his report at the first quarterly conference for 1921-22, December 10, 1921, that an Epworth League had just been organized at Providence with 28 members enrolled. Clarence Green was elected president. In April 1922, Virgil Acree was listed as president. This League held together only a short time but was re-organized again in 1925. John Burcher was the first president of this newly organized group. Ellington Moore was elected president of the Epworth

League in 1929. Rev. Justis stated in a quarterly conference report for 1929 that all three leagues on the charge were doing fine and that each one sent a delegate to Blackstone Institute that year. Mrs. Ida Moore was elected president of the group in 1930 and in 1932 Ellington Moore was elected president again.

Rev. Mills stated in his report to the fourth quarterly conference in 1933 that the work of the Epworth Leagues had been interrupted by an attempt to transfer such activities from the exclusive league to the Young People's Division but that two organizations of Young People were still carrying on the work.

This change took place shortly thereafter and the young people's group became known as "The Methodist Youth Fellowship."

At the time that the 1950 history was compiled, the following were serving as officers of the MYF:

Barbara Ann Hogge - President - Arlen Carter, Vice President  
T. C. Green, Jr. - Treasurer - Jean Moore, Secretary

Except for the above listing and a listing of the present officers, we have not attempted to determine who served in the various offices of this organization during the many years that it existed as the "Epworth League" and since as the "Methodist Youth Fellowship."

Like other organizations in the church it has had its good years and its lean years, depending on the leadership and support given to it. Much credit is due those, both the adult leaders and the youth workers, who strived to keep the work going. Needless to say, it is a fact that many of those that were active in the work of the Epworth League and the MYF became active leaders in the church as they became adults. Many ministers in the Virginia Conference today can, in all probability, trace their first true "christian experiences" to some rally or youth gathering connected with these organizations.

Providence presently has an active group meeting each Sunday Evening at the church and of course, participating in

worthwhile projects for the benefit of the church and at the same time having an occasional, wholesome, goodtime event.

James E. White and his wife, Pamela, are presently serving as counselors. Officers at present are:

Shari Yeager - President -- Vicki Moore, Vice President  
Cynthia Green - Secretary -- Kathy Moore, Treasurer

Shari Yeager is also serving as secretary of the District Youth Council.

A "Methodist Men's Group" was organized at Providence during the time that Rev. Marvin White was the minister. They were an active group for several years but later disbanded.

The present "United Methodist Men" was chartered February 17, 1971 and has continued to be active since that time. Marvin Sechrist served as the first president of this group. Other presidents have been: Carl Copeland, John Robinson, Everett Eagle, Aubrey Bohannon and Frank Jones, presently serving. This group has regular meetings with interesting speakers as well as family picnics in the Summer. They make up the Church Choir each third Sunday. They sponsor an annual "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" with them doing the cooking, serving and dishwashing. The funds raised are used in support of their projects such as VUMAR, the "Upper Room" Project, Hermitage Guild and other church related projects. On the local level they have helped with needed church repairs.

One of the more recent organizations to come into being is the "Perpetual Care Cemetery Committee." Legal papers establishing this group were prepared by Mrs. Isabel Hall Atlee, Attorney, effective July 3, 1973. This organization is independent of the church, as such, in that it has its own trustees and officers and keeps its funds separate from any other church funds. An initial goal was to raise \$10,000. to be invested with the interest being used to maintain the cemetery. Sizable contributions have been made by friends of the church who have deceased relatives interred in the cemetery and many families have requested memorials be made to the fund in lieu of flowers for funerals.

This has been a very successful venture and the funds received as interest are being used for grass cutting and other general maintenance of the cemetery. The officers and trustees are as follows: K. T. Smith, Jr. - Chairman; R. E. White - Vice Chairman; Delma Bristow - Secretary and Treasurer and Ida Moore - Corresponding Secretary. Trustees - Robert W. Green, Lewis H. Hall, Jr., John E. Robinson, Raymond Shields, Clyde T. Moore and Lucy Lindsay.



The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU as it is commonly known) is an interdenominational organization which does not have separate units in each church. Persons from Providence have been very active in the York County Chapter which was organized May 1928, at Grafton Christian Church, by Mrs. Hillie Phillips of Poquoson and Mrs. Taylor of Newport News. Mrs. J. E. Wornom was the first president and Mrs. Mary Colonna the first Secretary. At the present time Mrs. Frances Riley of Providence is serving as Treasurer.

All of these organizations have played an important role in the growth of our church and have influenced the lives of many people.

Our church has been very community minded, sponsoring groups such as Boy Scouts, with members of our church assisting them in various capacities. Our doors have been open to civic organizations and others who wished to use our facilities.

Since about 1965 we have sponsored basketball and softball teams from our membership to participate in the County Recreational Program. The men's softball team won the slow pitch championship play-off in 1972. The writer was a participant in that event.

These athletic events are a part of Christian growth. It is thought that the Apostle Paul was an athlete since he used illustrations in his writings reflecting this, as in "The second letter of Paul to Timothy," Chapter 4, Verse 7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."



Softball Trophy



Joe Moore, Raymond Shields, Ed Gardner and Joe Hogge



Mollie Dawson, Grace Ames,  
Grace Condon and Grace Hurman

Good Christian Fellowship



Celebration Meeting of United Methodist Women  
January 14, 1973  
Providence United Methodist Church, Daze, Ia.  
Minister ~~R. Mc Nutt~~

Evelyn Shields  
Cornelius B. Tate  
Carolyn M. Sadler  
Myrtle C. Dawson  
Lillian J. Smith  
Ethel Smith  
Rosa Olson  
Sarah Riley  
Ida L. Moore  
Emma Burcher  
Berta M. White  
Marjorie White  
Sue Jones  
Loanna R. Probst  
Janice Fairfield  
Barbara Green  
Beatrice Fairfield  
Elizabeth White  
Betty B. Emerson  
Lucy Lindquist  
Sallie Davis  
Dorothy Davis  
Annie P. Hardner  
Alice D. Wilson

Isabel J. Hall  
Edna L. Smith  
Bonnie Sechrist  
Arnetta Dawson  
Ora W. Green  
Ethel Mc Nutt  
Brenda Oswald  
Evelyn Slavick  
Mollie Dawson  
Beulah Green  
Florence Copeland  
Elizabeth Godwin  
Louise Brown  
Annie Landung  
Eva Hicks  
Lucy Ann White  
Emmery Lassiter  
Phyllis Brown  
Judy Johnson  
Muriel Bentley  
Addie Palmer

PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Providence Church! a name most dear,  
A name which many are pleased to hear;  
A sacred place dedicated to God  
Where people gather to worship the Lord;  
Children attending the Sunday School  
Are taught to practice the "Golden Rule."  
Memory goes back to childhood days  
When we joined in singing the songs of praise  
And listened to teachers who tried to impress  
Upon our young minds what brings happiness.  
Changes take place as the years go by,  
The young grow up, the older ones die;  
The work goes on from year to year  
By those to whom God's cause is dear.  
In the Church yard graves, tombstones at the head  
Mark resting places of the silent dead  
Who lived and labored, and then passed on  
Leaving their loved ones sad and forlorn,  
Yet hoping to meet them again in that Land  
Where the faithful meet at God's Right Hand  
Never to part again, never to roam,  
But dwell forever in that Heavenly Home  
Where all is Joy and peace and rest,  
Which God has promised, --the Home of the Blest.  
The present Church Building is number three,  
A modern brick building, as you will see;  
Sunday School rooms for children, you'll find,  
A worshipful place for all so inclined.  
May God's richest blessings, on people and Church  
Abide, while the people continue to search  
The Scriptures for help, as time passes by,  
For of Me, said the Master, they testify.

By Rev. J. E. White

THIRD PROVIDENCE CHURCH  
COMPLETED DECEMBER 1931  
As it appeared on the cover of the May 19, 1932  
Richmond Christian Advocate



The following remarks, by the Advocate's Editor, appeared beneath the picture: "This church has 235 members and large and enthusiastic congregations of Old-Fashioned Methodist who delight to worship. This is one of the oldest societies in York County and the third House of Worship that has been built on this site. The church cost \$12,000 and they have raised over \$5,000 in less than one year. The entire indebtedness at this time is less than \$4,500.00. This is a remarkable record and the enthusiasm of these good people should be an inspiration to other congregations."

Part III

Chapter 3

PROVIDENCE CHURCH 1931 - 1978

The congregation of Providence had more than usual to be joyous about during the Christmas Season of 1931, since their visions of a new house of worship had finally become a reality.

The third Providence Church Building was completed in December 1931 at a cost of \$12,000. Mr. C. C. Vellines was the contractor and builder. Rev. Harry F. Justis was serving his fourth year on the charge at the time of completion and had been very instrumental in the affairs of having the building erected.

The people of the community were proud of their new building and many made great sacrifices, giving of their time, efforts and money to clear up the remaining debt. The ladies of the church prepared suppers, socials and other activities to raise funds to apply to the debt. During this time, practically everyone had their own hens and many members set aside the proceeds from the sale of the "Sunday Eggs" (those eggs laid on Sunday) for the building fund. It must be remembered that these were "lean" years when every penny counted and it took strict stewardship to continue giving.

Percy D. White, who was reared in the community, was recommended by the first Quarterly Conference of 1932 to receive a license to preach.

During the church year 1939-40 a new parsonage was built on property adjoining the old parsonage lot in Grafton. The old building was sold to Mr. E. C. Crockett for use as a residence.

The total financial obligations of the charge for 1940-41 was set at \$1,025.55. Of this amount, \$608 was Providence's share of the minister's salary.

At the end of 1941 there were 255 members on the church rolls. Serving that year as trustee and steward were P. P.

Green, W. E. Moore, J. F. Smith, D. D. White, and Jethro F. White. Other trustees were L. O. Powell, Raymond Shields, and J. E. Wornom. Other stewards were Sidney Dawson, J. T. Moore, Jr., E. C. Crockett, J. C. Riley, and John F. White.

Listed below is a membership roll of Providence for 1940, taken from a Charge Directory prepared while Rev. Eugene Rawlings was minister.

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| ACREE, Mastin A.      | GILL, Bessie               |
| ACREE, Earnest V.     | GREEN, Thomas F.           |
| *ACREE, Ira Hugh      | GREEN, Lucy C.             |
| BURCHER, John T.      | *GREEN, Linda M.           |
| *BURCHER, Emma P.     | *GREEN, William S.         |
| *BURCHER, Frances     | GREEN, Marvin D.           |
| BURCHER, Charles M.   | *GREEN, Herman O.          |
| BURCHER, Mary C.      | GREEN, Peter P.            |
| *BURCHER, Neva T.     | GREEN, Annie L.            |
| *BURCHER, Carolyn     | *GREEN, Earnest            |
| BURCHER, Carrie       | *GREEN, Ruth C.            |
| BANKS, John F.        | *GREEN, Powell E.          |
| BUTLER, Joseph G.     | GREEN, Virginia            |
| *BUTLER, Garrett J.   | GREEN, Audrey P.           |
| BUTLER, Julia         | GREEN, T. Calvin           |
| BUTLER, Boyd C.       | GREEN, Ora                 |
| BUTLER, Etta          | GREEN, Coleman A.          |
| CHARLES, Fannie       | *GREEN, Buelah W.          |
| CHARLES, Harvey L.    | GREEN, Clarence O.         |
| CHARLES, Benton C.    | GREEN, John K.             |
| CHARLES, Edward T.    | GREEN, Dianna H.           |
| COLONNA, William H.   | HALEY, Emma L.             |
| COLONNA, May          | HALL, John K.              |
| CHARNICK, Clarence    | *HALL, Lettie              |
| COVINGTON, Aubrey B.  | *HALL, Elmer T.            |
| COVINGTON, Myrtle     | HALL, John Edward          |
| CRANE, Harvey         | *HALL, Etta M.             |
| CRANE, Mary A.        | HOGGE, F. Lee              |
| CROCKETT, Reginald P. | HOGGE, Lucy                |
| CROCKETT, Elmer C.    | HOGGE, Nettie D.           |
| CROCKETT, Ida M.      | HOGGE, W. Hayes            |
| CROCKETT, E. Berkley  | *HOGGE, Sarah A.           |
| *CROCKETT, Charles H. | HOGGE, Alonza A.           |
| CROCKETT, William     | *HOGGE, Edith M.           |
| DAVIS, William L.     | *HOGGE, Mary               |
| DAVIS, J. Oscar       | HOPKINS, Charles W.        |
| DAVIS, Mamie L.       | HUDGINS, Ornie             |
| DAVIS, John B. Sr.    | *HUFFMAN, Maisie           |
| *DAVIS, John B. Jr.   | HUNT, Myrtle Burley        |
| DAVIS, Otis L.        | *HURMAN, Grace E.          |
| DAVIS, Mary Anne      | IRONMONGER, Samuel D.      |
| DAVIS, Lillie V.      | *IRONMONGER, Irma D.       |
| DAVIS, Allen L.       | IRONMONGER, Martha         |
| DAVIS, Leonard E.     | JENNINGS, William R.       |
| *DAVIS, Calvin A.     | *LEE, Edith M.             |
| *DAVIS, Nellie W.     | LINDSAY, Sarah             |
| DAWSON, C. Baker      | LINDSAY, William           |
| DAWSON, Bessie L.     | LINDSAY, Edward M.         |
| DAWSON, Albert S.     | *LINDSAY, Lucy G.          |
| DAWSON, Mary L.       | LINDSAY, Leroy O.          |
| *DAWSON, John         | LINDSAY, Stonewall Jackson |
| DAWSON, W. Stanley    | LINDSAY, Herman M.         |
| *DAWSON, Mollie       | LINDSAY, M. Cary           |
| *DAWSON, Sidney       | MOORE, William E.          |
| *DAWSON, Arnetia      | MOORE, Josephine L.        |
| DEALBA, David         | *MOORE, Jessie E.          |
| DEALBA, Louise        | *MOORE, Joseph T.          |
| FARMER, Etta N.       | *MOORE, Ida M.             |
| *FORREST, Buelah C.   | *MOORE, Clyde T.           |
| FORREST, Lee          | MOORE, Christopher         |
| FOSTER, John K.       | MOORE, Oswald              |
| FOSTER, Sadelia       | MOORE, Ellington           |
| FREEMAN, Lillian B.   | MOORE, Buelah G.           |
| *GAINES, James H.     | MOORE, Lester H.           |

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| MOORE, Wilton A.     | SPENCER, Sadelia W.       |
| *MOORE, Mary G.      | *SPENCER, Julia V.        |
| *MOORE, Ada L.       | SULSBERGER, Dorothy       |
| MOORE, Benjamin F.   | TAYLOR, Henry F.          |
| MOORE, Weldon E.     | TAYLOR, Jessie M.         |
| MOORE, Mabel G.      | THOMAS, Arthur P.         |
| MOORE, Mamie L.      | THOMAS, Pearl M.          |
| *MOORE, Mary L.      | THOMAS, Evelyn            |
| MOORE, Norman W.     | VERMILLION, Emily H.      |
| MOORE, Robert A.     | WADE, Clarence            |
| MOORE, Elsie L.      | WATSON, Edna W.           |
| MOORE, Emma V.       | WATSON, Lottie V.         |
| MOORE, Irving        | WATSON, Rev. Benjamin F.  |
| MOORE, George        | WATSON, Fannie Q.         |
| MOORE, Joseph T. Sr. | WAINWRIGHT, W. T.         |
| MOORE, Merritt E.    | WAINWRIGHT, H. C.         |
| *MOORE, Ottway B.    | *WAINWRIGHT, Sadie        |
| *MOORE, Curtis       | WAINWRIGHT, W. F.         |
| MOORE, Addison       | WAINWRIGHT, Bessie        |
| MOORE, Eddie         | WAINWRIGHT, Jessie V.     |
| MOORE, Lottie        | WAINWRIGHT, Jessie V. Jr. |
| MOORE, Wilbur        | WAINWRIGHT, John F.       |
| *MOORE, Mary E.      | WAINWRIGHT, Robert F.     |
| MARTIN, John G. Sr.  | WAINWRIGHT, Mary C.       |
| MARTIN, Etta C.      | WAINWRIGHT, John W.       |
| MARTIN, John G. Jr.  | WAINWRIGHT, Eunice B.     |
| MARTIN, Davis W.     | WAINWRIGHT, Donald B.     |
| MARTIN, Winton W.    | WAINWRIGHT, Mary V.       |
| MILLER, Linwood T.   | WAINWRIGHT, John W. Jr.   |
| MILLER, Margaret S.  | WESTCOTT, Rose W.         |
| MORGAN, Vandelia     | WHITE, Jethro F.          |
| NELMS, Sadie W.      | *WHITE, William F.        |
| *OLSEN, Robert T.    | *WHITE, Virginia R.       |
| *OLSEN, Rosa         | WHITE, John French        |
| PHILLIPS, Laura K.   | *WHITE, Lucy Anne         |
| POWELL, Dr. L. O.    | WHITE, David D. Sr.       |
| PRESSON, Robert F.   | WHITE, Annie R.           |
| *PRESSON, Hazel M.   | *WHITE, Robert E.         |
| PRESSON, Claude      | WHITE, J. Elmer           |
| PRESSON, Julia B.    | *WHITE, David D. Jr.      |
| PRESSON, Lois        | *WHITE, Elizabeth D.      |
| PRESSON, William     | WOOD, Eunice              |
| RILEY, John C.       | WOOD, Doris               |
| RILEY, Buelah        | WOOD, Ralph N.            |
| RILEY, Harry D.      | WOOD, George              |
| *RILEY, Mary L.      | WILSON, George C.         |
| *SHIELDS, Raymond    | *WILSON, Alice G.         |
| *SHIELDS, Evelyn S.  | *WILSON, Curtis G.        |
| SHIELDS, Maude E.    | *WILSON, William Travis   |
| SMITH, John F.       | *WILSON, Martha           |
| *SMITH, Edith C.     | WINDER, W. Edward         |
| *SMITH, John F. Jr.  | WINDER, Bessie M.         |
| SMITH, Elmer         | WINDER, Elizabeth         |
| SMITH, Kirby T.      | WORNOM, John E.           |
| *SMITH, Ethel J.     | WORNOM, Cosmus P.         |
| *SMITH, Kirby T. Jr. | WORNOM, Marchant          |
| SMITH, Ethel L.      | *WORNOM, Paul H.          |
| SMITH, William A.    | *WORNOM, John P.          |
| SMITH, Katie         | WORNOM, Charles B.        |
| SPARRER, Ruth B.     | WORNOM, John S.           |
| SPENCER, Harry W.    | Total: 249                |

It is interesting to note that 69 of those listed are still on the church roll as of March 1, 1978. Some of the ladies have different surnames. Current members are marked by \*.



Then came World War II causing many changes in the lives of the people in the community. Many who worked on defense jobs had to work seven days a week. One particular case is recalled in that Mr. Jethro White, a long time leader in the church, who had always believed that it was wrong to work on the Sabbath was disturbed when asked to work on Sundays. He discussed this problem with the minister, Rev. Otis Clark, who came up with a wise answer, quoting from the scripture, "If a man's ox should become stuck in the mire on the Sabbath, the owner should try to pull him out." He explained that in his opinion the country was in the "mire" and that everyone should do what he or she could to try to pull it out.

Rev. Clark made the following statement in his report to the Second Quarterly Conference in 1942: "The quarter just ended has been the most bewildering the pastor has ever known. Our entry into the World War, the seven day work week, the pushing up of the clock in winter, the present unusual rubber and gasoline situation - all these and other things tend to distract from the regular routine of life. The attendance at both church and church school has varied - sometimes encouraging, and sometimes otherwise, especially at night services."

Unlike many areas, our community was very fortunate in having all of its young men return home safely after the war. Some suffered many ordeals, including time spent in a prison camp by at least one of them.

The following resolutions were written and adopted on the death of Mrs. J. E. Wornom, who for many years was very active in all phases of the work concerning her church and community. She was affectionately known as "Miss Cossie."

WHEREAS our Heavenly Father, in his infinite wisdom has called from our midst the soul of our friend and co-worker, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, and

WHEREAS we recognized in her one of devoted and sincere interest in the welfare of both our church life and the civic life of our community, and

WHEREAS we realize our great loss in leadership in the church school, the church, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and other beneficent activities, therefore be it

RESOLVED first, that we rejoice and are glad of having had the benefit of her long and devoted services, and of having had the privilege of being co-laborer with her. Be it further

RESOLVED that we, sincerely mourn her departure and pray that her example may influence and help us to carry on the work that was so dear to her heart. Be it further

RESOLVED that we extend to the bereaved family our very sincere sympathy in their hours of bereavement, and be it also

RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be filed in the church school records, a copy be sent to the family and a copy be sent to the Virginia Methodist Advocate.

J. F. White, Emma P. Burcher, Mollie M. Dawson, W. E. Moore, Supt. -- March 1944

--Committee of Providence Methodist Sunday School

The church adopted the budget system of financing in 1947, whereas members were asked to pledge and use envelopes for weekly contributions. The previous system had been for the various stewards to be responsible for collections from certain people in their area.

Rev. Carroll Freeman formerly of Poquoson, then Pastor of Blackstone Methodist Church, officiated at the Revival Meetings held at Providence in April 1949. Very large crowds attended these meetings.

It was discovered in 1950 that the studding in the basement walls had begun to rot near the floor as a result of water seepage. Part of the studding had to be replaced by a concrete foundation as support for the walls. This work was done by Mr. C. D. Card, Hampton Contractor, at a cost of \$728. This seepage problem was later alleviated by placing drainage lines in the area adjacent to the church.

The following were elected church stewards at the Fourth Quarterly Conference for 1950-51: Merritt Moore, D. D. White, Jr., Calvin Green, Hilary Bridwell, W. F. White, E. C. Crockett, Raymond Shields, M. B. Mitchell, W. L. Davis, V. W. Nunn, R. E. White, K. T. Smith, Jr., John Wilbun and

I. B. Bloxom. Officers of the Official Board were W. F. White, Chairman, Merritt Moore, Vice Chairman and R. E. White, Secretary-Treasurer.

In September 1950 the church celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Rev. Merrill Barton was serving his 5th year as pastor at the time. A large crowd attended the day long services with dinner served on the grounds. A plaque was dedicated by Mrs. Nellie Slaven and Rev. John E. White in memory of their grandparents who gave the original site on which the church stands. Revival services were held nightly during the following week with the speakers being former ministers of the church.

During 1950 Mr. Herman Nordstrom gave the church 1/8 acre of land adjoining the church's property across the road from the church.

Inasmuch as Zion Church in Seaford had been making plans to become a separate charge, a special church conference was held in July 1951, at which time it was decided that Providence would also become a separate charge. Rev. Oscar Good, who had been serving the three church charge, assumed full time ministerial duties at Zion Church.

Rev. R. Marvin White arrived in November 1951 to become the first minister to serve the new Providence Charge. For the first time in its history the church now had a minister to preach every Sunday and to be readily available to work with the people.

The church, having sold its interest in the parsonage in Grafton, started building a new one on land given to the church by John Smith Wornom. While this building was being erected, a small home in the community owned by Mr. George Colonna, was made available as a temporary parsonage. Repairs and improvements were made by church members to make it suitable for a home.

Rev. White in a recent address at the church's annual Memorial Day Services recalled the night of his arrival in the



Rev. Merrill Barton

## Centennial Week

SEPTEMBER 17 - 24, 1950

Celebrating The

ONE HUNDREDTH  
ANNIVERSARY

Of

Providence

Methodist Church

DARE, VIRGINIA



BISHOP WILLIAM WALTER PEELE

Presiding Bishop

DR. FRANK L. WELLS

District Superintendent

REV. M. H. BARTON

Pastor

A Cordial Welcome To All

### CENTENNIAL WEEK CALENDAR, SEPTEMBER 17 - 24

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17              | CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45 a.m.   |
| Home Coming Day                   | 11:00 a.m. Service of Dedication  |
| All-Day Service with              | Dedication of Plaque by Rev. John E. White, Retired Minister              |
| "Dinner on the Grounds"           | Sermon _____ Rev. Percy D. White  |
|                                   | Dinner _____ Fellowship Hour  |
|                                   | 2:30 p.m.—Historical Sketches by Robert E. White, Historian               |
|                                   | Sermon—Our Heritage by Dr. Walter C. Goss, Former District Superintendent |
|                                   | Presentation of Gifts for the Building Fund                               |
| MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 7:30 p.m.   | YOUTH OF THE CHURCH   |
|                                   | Sermon—Rev. A. Farnell Bailey, Pastor Oak Grove Methodist Church          |
| TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 7:30 p.m.  | MEN OF THE CHURCH   |
|                                   | Sermon _____ Rev. E. W. Rawlings, former pastor                           |
| WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 7:30     | WOMEN OF THE CHURCH   |
|                                   | Sermon _____ Speaker to be announced later                                |
| THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 7:30 p.m. | OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH   |
|                                   | Sermon _____ Rev. W. G. Bates, Jr., Former Pastor                         |
| FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7:30 p.m.   | STEWARDSHIP IN THE CHURCH   |
|                                   | Sermon _____ Rev. Paul R. Best, former pastor                             |
| SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 7:30 p.m. | Fourth Quarterly Conference Message by Dr. Wells, District Superintendent |
| SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24              | CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45 a.m.   |
|                                   | 11:00 Service Of Re-dedication  |
|                                   | Sermon _____ M. H. Barton   |
|                                   | Communion Service   |

Dare Community. He and his wife Betty and a very tired infant son stopped at Wornom's store at the corner to get directions to their new home. It was raining very hard and he missed the narrow road leading to the Colonna home and ended up on a dead end road at the rivers edge.

The minister stated in his Second Quarterly Report, March 11, 1952, that as a result of a recent revival by Rev. Charles W. Bragg, Jr. and a weeklong visitation that he had 14 commitments for church membership.

The pastor's salary for 1953-54 was set at \$3500.00.

Another change that took place about this time was the formation of the "Peninsula District." Dr. Kenneth Haddock was the District Superintendent at the time and was instrumental in its formation.

Rev. White stated in his report at the April 1955 Quarterly Conference that 36 new members had been received during the year, 25 of them by profession of faith. He stated also that he was disturbed by the lack of vitality on the part of some organizations in the church and suggested that each organization make regular reports at each official board meeting.

The church trustees were authorized at a church conference held September 16, 1956 to purchase three acres of land from Mr. Nordstrom at a cost of \$3000. This land joined the church's other property across the road.

The minister, Dr. Proctor, reported a church membership of 357 in June 1957. Dr. Proctor retired from the Virginia conference in June 1957 and was followed by Rev. Leroy Davis.

Several large trees were removed from the church yard during 1958. These trees, complete with hitching rings used in the horse and buggy days, had been landmarks for years but had to be removed to improve the parking area.

In 1959 an addition was built onto the back of the church with rest rooms on the basement level and a classroom on the sanctuary floor level. A water cooler was also installed at this time. These facilities were a welcome addition to the church.

In 1960 Mr. J. D. Perdue gave the church a narrow strip of property joining the land on which the Educational Building is now located.

After many months of discussion and several church conferences concerning the church's building program, an unexpected development occurred. The Highway Department decided to relocate the highway going into Dare which had previously split the church property. With the road no longer presenting restrictions, the church members began to see that they could plan a long range building program.

A short while after the new road had been completed Mr. Charles Smith deeded a small parcel of land which forms the extreme Eastern tip of the Cemetery between the old and new roads. The land has been filled and future beautification is planned.

At a called church conference, July 19, 1961, it was unanimously carried that an addition would be made to the front of the present building and an educational building would be started across the old road. The membership at a church conference held April 29, 1962 voted to accept the low bid for construction of the church buildings. The job was awarded to the Hilton Corporation at a price of \$76,290. Ground breaking ceremonies were held June 24, 1962 with the minister, Rev. Leslie Grace and District Superintendent Dr. R. Orman Bryant officiating.

The budget for the church year from June 1, 1962 through May 31, 1963 was set as follows: Local church operation \$5200; Ministerial Support \$7098 (of this the pastor's salary was \$4800 with \$700 traveling expense); Benevolent support \$3182, a total of \$15,480.

Officers for the church year 1963-64 were as follows: Stewards: J. T. Moore, Chairman, Mrs. J. W. Bentley, Mrs. John Burcher, Mrs. A. R. Carter, John W. Dawson, Sidney Dawson, Everett Eagle, Ed Gardner, Cecil Gravely, Coleman Green, William A. Green, Ora Green, E. E. Green, Jr., Maywood Hudgins, Raymond Krowe, Lucy Lindsay, M. B. Mitchell, Clyde T. Moore, Owen Myers, Woodrow Pierce,





Church Groundbreaking - June 24, 1962. Participating in the ceremony were Dr. R. Orman Bryant, foreground, district superintendent, who turned the first shovel of dirt; and back row, left to right, J. R. Brewer, chairman, building committee; R. W. Montgomery, contractor; the Rev. Leslie E. Grace, pastor; John F. Smith, Sr., oldest active trustee; J. T. Moore, chairman, official board.

Cornerstone for church addition (1963), put in place February 16, 1964. Participating were Dr. Orman Bryant and Rev. Leslie Grace.



Robert Riley, Arthur Shields, Mrs. Robert Tate, Philip Wrenn and John W. Whitmore, Church Lay Leader. Church Trustees: J. R. Brewer, R. E. White, W. E. Moore, Charles T. Spivey, K. T. Smith, Jr., J. F. Smith, Sr., David D. White, Jr., William F. White and Johnson T. Wilbun. Commission Chairmen: Mrs. Ruth Green, Membership and Evangelism; Mrs. John Whitmore, Education; Philip Clark, Missions; Thomas Castellow, Stewardship and Finance; George Brooks, Christian Social Concerns; Mrs. Eva Hudgins, Worship. Hermitage Key Woman, Mrs. W. F. White. Mr. Jack Brewer was building committee chairman.

Growth of the church in recent years has been slow but the faithful continue to serve. A Church directory prepared in 1970 while Rev. Munns was pastor, lists 529 members. As in all other churches, some of these were more or less inactive. Since then the rolls have been purged and those who could not be located have been removed by Charge Conference action.

As the church approached its 125th Anniversary, plans were made for a celebration which was held on the weekend of September 13-15, 1974. The occasion proved to be very interesting with guest speakers, Dr. Orman Bryant and Dr. Edgar Potts, both having had connections with Providence during their service as District Superintendents. Other events included a historical presentation, a pageant depicting some events of the past, an ice cream social and lunch served on the grounds. Many friends of the church attended.

A Building Committee appointed by the Charge Conference was established in October 1973 with the following membership: James R. Dinkins, Chairman, Neva Brooks, Randy Bowyer, James R. Brewer, Delma Bristow, Carl Copeland, Everett Eagle, Thomas Fairfield, Robert Green, Isabel Hall, R. L. McNutt, Joe Moore, Raymond Shields, K. T. Smith and Robert E. White.

Bob Dinkins stated at the first meeting, "the purpose of this Committee is to serve the church in such a way as to further reflect the accomplishments of those of the past as we build for the future." With this purpose in mind the committee attempted to project future building needs by establishing a

long range plan covering the three areas of interest, parsonage, church, and grounds. The following priorities were established by the committee: First - the purchase of 3 acres of land; second - the rehabilitation of the existing parsonage or construction of a new one; third - paving of the church parking lot; and fourth - construction of an addition to the Education Building for a library, pastor's study and additional classrooms.

On recommendation of the committee, a congregational meeting was held on May 19, 1975 at which it was voted to purchase 3 acres of land adjacent to the church as a possible site for a new parsonage. On June 13, 1976 a church conference voted to place the present parsonage up for sale and to build a new parsonage on the newly acquired site.

The old parsonage was sold for approximately \$40,000 and the new parsonage was completed at an approximate cost of \$65,000. The minister's family occupied the new home in January 1977. As of March 1, 1978 we are proud that there is only about \$5,000 remaining on the parsonage debt.



New Parsonage



Parsonage

Groundbreaking - Rev. Sirk, Bob Dinkins, Tommy Fairfield, Isabel Hall and Joe Hogge

## THE 125th ANNIVERSARY PAGEANT



Ora Green portraying her great grandmother, Mrs. Amelia Davis



Raymond Shields, Frank Jones, and Bobby Green as members of the church approaching Wayne Eagle as Major Keyes and Victor Bowyer as his Sargeant requesting Providence be spared destruction during the Civil War.

Neva Brooks at the ice cream social giving one of her humorous recitations with K. T. Smith acting the character in her selection.



Church Officers for 1978 are listed below. Those listed are the chairman or head of the respective groups or departments. Others, such as the Treasurer are single position jobs.

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Aubrey and Virginia Bohannon . . . . . | Missions                      |
| J. B. and Delma Bristow . . . . .      | Church and Society            |
| J. R. Brewer . . . . .                 | Church Trustees               |
| Neva Brooks . . . . .                  | Adult and Family Ministries   |
| Carl Copeland . . . . .                | Administrative Board          |
| Myrtle Dawson . . . . .                | Health and Welfare            |
| S. W. and Arnetia Dawson . . . . .     | District Conference Delegates |
| James R. Dinkins . . . . .             | Church Administrator          |
| Nancy Dinkins . . . . .                | Membership Secretary          |
| Everett Eagle . . . . .                | Stewardship                   |
| Wayne Eagle . . . . .                  | Evangelism                    |
| Thomas Fairfield . . . . .             | Council on Ministries         |
| Robert W. Green . . . . .              | Church Treasurer              |
| Ruth Green . . . . .                   | Recording Secretary           |
| Phyllis Grow . . . . .                 | Education                     |
| Lewis H. Hall . . . . .                | Lay Member, Annual Conference |
| Sue Hardie . . . . .                   | Key Woman, Hermitage Guild    |
| Frank L. Jones . . . . .               | Methodist Men                 |
| Phyllis Sirk . . . . .                 | United Methodist Women        |
| K. T. and Lillian Smith . . . . .      | Worship                       |
| James E. White . . . . .               | Youth Ministries              |
| Robert E. White . . . . .              | Lay Leader                    |
| William F. White . . . . .             | Pastor Parish Relations       |
| Catherine Yeager . . . . .             | Financial Secretary           |
| Shari Yeager . . . . .                 | Methodist Youth Fellowship    |

An official membership roll is listed in Appendix II to this book and members of the Administrative Board are designated by an asterik. Those serving on other church boards or commissions are designated by symbols following their names.

Our Worship Committee provides flowers and altar arrangements each Sunday and for special occasions. Our men serve faithfully as ushers and our youth serve as acolytes. Those youth serving as acolytes for 1978 are: Nancy Smith, Annette Doggett, Patti Dinkins, Marion Smith, Kim Lawson, Danny Green, Lisa Hayes, Terrell Gilbert, Tim Rohman and James

Laing with Buddy Eagle and Billy Doggett as Junior Acolytes. Shari Yeager and Cindy Green served during 1977.

We are fortunate to have had the services of Mrs. Muriel Bentley as Church Organist for the past 20 years. She serves without remuneration and is considered a professional in her field. Mrs. Arnetia Dawson has also served faithfully as Assistant Organist.



Mrs. Muriel Bentley

Mrs. Bentley's daughter, Sandi Reynolds, also serving without pay and doing a very fine job, is our Choir Director. Other regular members of the choir are: Janice Fairfield, Sue Jones, Marion Hodges, Arnetia Dawson, Phyllis Sirk, Beth Nolan, Joan Gilbert, Frank Jones, Arthur Shields, Sidney Dawson, David D. White, Jr., David D. White, III and Robert E. White.

A recent addition to our Sunday Morning Worship Service has been the "Children's Sermonette" by Mrs. Neva Brooks. The children take part in portraying the characters in these impressionable stories which are interesting even to we "older children."

In 1976 we acquired the services of a church secretary, Mrs. Andrea Pearce, who is doing a most efficient job.

Many gifts, ranging from candlesticks to pianos, have been bestowed upon our church during the years. Many were given as memorials, such as the beautiful Memorial Windows on each side of the sanctuary. Our Gift Book is being brought up to date and will be kept with other historical items. Several years ago Mr. Joe Moore constructed a nice historical cabinet which is in the Narthex and has historical items of interest in it. We also have a fireproof metal cabinet in which old historical records are kept.

It is regretted that more information could not have been given regarding our former ministers. There are those who





Richard and Ethel McNutt  
Farewell after 5 pleasant years.

served our church faithfully throughout the years whose names may not have been mentioned since we were trying to set forth important events through the years. We do have considerable information in our files, including pictures of many, if there are those interested in this information. A list of all of the ministers who have served Providence is given in Appendix I of this book.

Our present pastor, Rev. Wade Sirk, his wife Phyllis and his three children, Matthew, Mark and Beverly came to the church in June 1976, being the first to occupy our new parsonage. Rev. Sirk is presently conducting both morning and evening Worship Services.

Considering such things as money contributed to missionary work, sermons that have changed the lives of people, and the influence of Sunday School Teachers on the lives of children, there is no way to measure the Christian influence that has been extended from Providence Church.

Six are known to have entered the field of Religious Work from the ranks of Providence.

Benjamin F. Watson, who was listed on the 1861 "Sabbath School Register" as a young child, entered the ministry, serving for many years in the Virginia and North Carolina Conferences. After his retirement he again became an active member of Providence.

W. J. Watson, son of Benjamin Watson, served for many years as an active minister in the North Carolina Conference. Both he and his father are interred in our cemetery.

John E. White entered the ministry in 1898 and served several charges in the Virginia Conference until his retirement in 1939. He kept records so accurately indexed that it was possible to locate the sermon that he preached as a "Dedication Sermon" in 1908 at the old White's Memorial Church in Morrison.

Herman Wornom, son of Mr. & Mrs. John E. Wornom, served for many years, principally, in the field of Religious Education. He is presently retired and living in New York State. He still has a great love for Providence and visits when possible.

Percy D. White, who entered the Virginia Conference in 1932, served several charges in the conference, retiring in 1976 and is now living in Richmond, Virginia. He occasionally fills the pulpit in our church for vacationing ministers. He is a brother of our church member, William F. White.

Robert E. White, Jr. was admitted to the Virginia Conference in 1967. He is currently serving Christ Church on Chincoteague Island, after serving pastorates in Alexandria and Petersburg. He and his wife, the former Melissa Jean Howe of Alexandria, have one son, Kevin Andrew.

Our church, as in all churches, is made up of imperfect people. Issues have surfaced throughout the years, causing differences of opinion among members with things said and actions taken without enough prayerful thought, but we profit by our mistakes and usually emerge stronger and more united than before.

There is an adage that people moving into a small rural community are not always accepted by the natives, at least until a number of years have rolled by. To the contrary, we have been blessed by the addition of many families that have not only become members of our church but have brought with them new ideas, suggested new goals and as evidenced by the list of our church officers, have been placed in positions of leadership in our church.

It has been my observation that the religious doctrines expressed at Providence may not satisfy everyone, since individuals vary in the amount of expression needed to fulfill their spiritual needs, but as a former District Superintendant stated in a sermon several years ago, "I believe that people who are constant in their efforts, sincere in their religious beliefs and who strive to lead lives that are an inspiration to others are truly the Church's Foundation." That is the kind of people we at Providence are striving to be.

The following poetic words, as translated from the latin and attributed to Saint Theresa, a Carmelite Nun of the Sixteenth Century, express the feelings of this writer:

I am not led to love Thee, Lord,  
By the hope of gaining Heaven;  
Nor kept from offending Thee  
By the fear of Hell.  
But by Thy love I'm led,  
And in such measure  
That though there were no Hell  
I still would fear Thee;  
And though there were no Heaven  
I'd love Thee still.

## APPENDIX I

### List of Ministers that have served Providence United Methodist Church

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| John S. Briggs . . . . .   | 1849-51 |
| George W. Trimyer . . . . .  | 1851-52 |
| Wm. A. Robinson . . . . .  | 1852-54 |
| David W. Laney . . . . .   | 1854-55 |
| Humphrey Billups . . . . .   | 1855-56 |
| A. M. Hall . . . . .   | 1856-57 |
| James E. Joiner . . . . .  | 1857-58 |
| Wm. A. Robinson . . . . .  | 1858-59 |
| A. M. Hall . . . . .   | 1859-60 |
| Benjamin T. Ames . . . . .   | 1860-61 |
| John W. White . . . . .  | 1861-62 |
| No appointments-Charge served by G. W. Trimyer and John Shield, local preacher until 1865. |         |
| R. N. Crooks . . . . .   | 1865-68 |
| J. D. Lumsden . . . . .  | 1868-70 |
| Joseph Leah . . . . .  | 1870-71 |
| R. N. Crooks . . . . .   | 1871-75 |
| B. C. Spiller . . . . .  | 1875-79 |
| J. T. Dalby . . . . .  | 1879-82 |
| J. W. Crown . . . . .  | 1882-83 |
| J. S. Morris . . . . .   | 1883-84 |
| J. E. McSparran . . . . .  | 1884-86 |
| Charles Taylor . . . . .   | 1886-90 |
| J. E. Potts . . . . .  | 1890-94 |
| C. E. Hobday . . . . .   | 1894-97 |
| J. S. Wallace . . . . .  | 1897-98 |
| L. J. Phaup . . . . .  | 1898-01 |
| J. H. Nicholson . . . . .  | 1901-02 |
| J. W. Baker . . . . .  | 1902-05 |
| J. R. Eggleston . . . . .  | 1905-09 |
| E. P. Parham . . . . .   | 1909-11 |
| C. W. Turner . . . . .   | 1911-12 |
| W. T. Bates, Jr. . . . .   | 1912-13 |
| T. J. Pullen . . . . .   | 1913-17 |
| A. B. Warwick . . . . .  | 1917-18 |
| David W. Jackson . . . . .   | 1918-22 |
| J. D. Hozier . . . . .   | 1922-24 |
| J. T. Sewell . . . . .   | 1924-27 |
| S. J. Brown . . . . .  | 1927-28 |
| Harry F. Justis . . . . .  | 1928-32 |
| John T. Mills . . . . .  | 1932-36 |
| Paul R. Best . . . . .   | 1936-38 |
| Eugene W. Rawlings . . . . .   | 1938-40 |
| Otis M. Clarke . . . . .   | 1940-44 |
| Mack Thommason . . . . .   | 1944-45 |
| Merrill Barton . . . . .   | 1945-50 |
| Oscar S. Good . . . . .  | 1950-51 |
| R. Marvin White, Jr. . . . .   | 1951-55 |
| R. Bayard Proctor . . . . .  | 1955-57 |
| Leroy W. Davis . . . . .   | 1957-60 |
| Leslie E. Grace . . . . .  | 1960-65 |
| William N. Colton . . . . .  | 1965-67 |
| Emmett W. Cocke . . . . .  | 1967-69 |
| Leroy Munns . . . . .  | 1969-70 |
| Richard L. McNutt . . . . .  | 1970-76 |
| Wade L. Sirk . . . . .   | 1976-   |

## APPENDIX II

Official Roll of Providence United Methodist Church as of March 1, 1978.

NOTE: Asterik by name indicates membership on Administrative Board.

Symbols shown below indicate membership as follows:

CM - Council on Ministries  
NP - Nomination and Personnel  
PP - Pastor Parish Relations

TR - Church Trustee  
FC - Finance Committee  
WO - Worship Committee

Acree, Ira H.  
Adams, Mary Lee  
Addleman, Mary  
Affemann, Karen  
Allen, Dr. Robert  
Anderson, Harry R.  
Anderson, Thelma  
Atlee, Isabel Hall  
Ballance, George W.  
Ballard, David  
Bentley, John W.  
Bentley, Muriel L. (WO)  
Berry, Howard F.  
Berry, Hazel W.  
Berry, Frank L.  
Blaxton, Dorothy  
Blount, Susie Mae  
\*Bohannon, James A.  
\*Bohannon, Virginia H.  
Bohannon, James A. Jr.  
Bohannon, Patricia A.  
Bowyer, Francis M. Jr.  
Bowyer, Betty T.  
Bowyer, Francis R.  
Bowyer, Victor A.  
Boyenton, Mary C.  
\*Brewer, James R. (TR)(PP)(FC)  
Bright, Colen E.  
Bright, Ada L.  
Bright, Colen E. Jr.  
\*Bristow, John B.  
\*Bristow, Delma P. (NP)  
Bristow, Donna M.  
Brogan, Deborah G.  
Brooks, George W.  
Brooks, Beryl J.  
Brooks, Jack P.

Brooks, Carolyn B.  
Brooks, Bonnie  
\*Brooks, Neva B. (PP)(NP)  
Brown, Thomas E.  
Brown, Margie  
Buckingham, Patsy H.  
\*Burcher, Emma P.  
Butler, G. Joseph  
Butler, J. Donald  
Butler, Nellie  
Butler, J. Donald Jr.  
Butler, Janet E.  
Capps, Dean G.  
Capps, Bonnie  
Capps, Eric R.  
Capps, Bruce A.  
Carneal, Jane B.  
Carter, Arthur R.  
Castellow, Thomas C.  
Castellow, Gladys E.  
Castellow, Thomas C. Jr.  
Castellow, David B.  
Charnick, Clarence  
Clark, Deloris W.  
Clark, Philip H.  
Clark, Elizabeth  
Coats, Sandra S.  
Collins, Audley E.  
Collins, Joyce L.  
Collins, Michael W.  
Colston, Bernice H.  
\*Copeland, Carl E. (FC)(CM)  
Copeland, Flossie B.  
Copeland, David L.  
Covington, Lewis C.  
Covington, Betsy  
Covington, Pamela

Covington, Valerie  
Craig, Alice M.  
Crawford, James R.  
Crawford, Mary L.  
Crawford, James R. Jr.  
Crawford, John T.  
Crawford, Bonnie L.  
Crawford, Beth  
Criswell, Annie  
Crockett, Charles H.  
Crockett, William R.  
Davis, Allison P.  
Davis, Bettie L.  
Davis, Alton B.  
Davis, Calvin A.  
Davis, Nellie W.  
Davis, Franklin  
Davis, John B. Jr.  
Davis, Etta H.  
Davis, Sandra J.  
Davis, Mammie L.  
Davis, Irma K.  
Davis, Sally H.  
Davis, Mildred L.  
Davis, William L. Jr.  
Davis, Janice H.  
Davis, William R.  
Davis, Charlotte L.  
Dawson, John W.  
\*Dawson, Myrtle C. (CM)  
\*Dawson, Sidney W.  
\*Dawson, Arnetia L.  
Dawson, Mollie M.  
Dent, Nancy E.  
Dickerson, Ida  
Dickerson, Debra C.  
\*Dinkins, James R. (FC)  
\*Dinkins, Nancy B. (NP)(WO)  
Dinkins, Michael  
\*Doggett, William C. (PP)  
\*Doggett, Garnette L. (NP)  
Doggett, Annette  
Doggett, William C. Jr.  
\*Eagle, Everett W. (FC)  
\*Eagle, Everett W. Jr. (NP)  
Eagle, Ann B. (WO)  
Eagle, Everett W. III  
Eagle, Ronald W.  
Edwards, Clara L.  
Edwards, Dorothy L.  
Estes, Marvin W.  
Estes, Frances H.  
Estes, Ricky K.  
Estes, Gail F.  
Fairfield, Randolph D.  
Fairfield, Barbara G.  
Fairfield, Kimberly K.  
\*Fairfield, Thomas L. (CM)(NP)  
\*Fairfield, Janice  
Fairfield, Thomas L. Jr.  
Fairfield, Beatrice H.

Fairfield, Denise L.  
Farson, Albert M.  
Farson, Josephine  
Forrest, Beulah C.  
Forrest, George S.  
Forrest, Avoline  
Forrest, Catherine A.  
Forrest, Lee  
Fowler, Olga F.  
Freeman, Suzanne K.  
Gaines, James H.  
Gaines, Jacqueline G.  
Gaines, James T.  
Gandy, Mildred  
Gardner, Edward H. (WO)  
Gardner, Annie P. (WO)  
Gardner, Virginia L.  
Gilbert, James B.  
Gilbert, Joan  
Gilotti, Linda S.  
Godwin, Elizabeth  
Gravely, Mary H.  
Gravely, Cecil F. Jr.  
Green, Barry W.  
Green, Beulah W.  
Green, Earnest E.  
\*Green, Ruth L.  
Green, H. Odell  
Green, Evelyn H.  
Green, John F.  
Green, Betty J.  
Green, John F. Jr.  
Green, Norma H.  
Green, Powell E.  
\*Green, Robert W. (FC)  
Green, Barbara J. (NP)  
Green, Cynthia A.  
Green, Daniel W.  
Green, Thomas C. Jr.  
Green, Wallace C.  
Green, Mary June  
Green, William S.  
Grow, Gary Lynn  
\*Grow, Harold N. (FC)  
\*Grow, Phyllis H.  
Hadden, Ada  
Hall, Maisie H.  
Hall, Elmer T.  
Hall, Lettie L.  
\*Hall, Lewis H. Jr. (CM)  
\*Hall, Isabel T. (PP)  
\*Hardie, Thornton J.  
Hardie, Sue R.  
Hardie, Jeffrey  
Hardister, Henry L.  
Hardister, Levena M.  
Hardister, Ernest L.  
Hardister, Glen M.  
Hartman, Russell B.  
Hartman, Ellen F.  
Hartman, Mary



Hartman, Clifford R.  
Hartman, William L.  
Hayes, John E.  
Hayes, Joan B.  
Hayes, John E. Jr.  
Hayes, Lisa  
Henry, Robert M.  
Henry, Betty Kerr  
Henry, Melissa Sue  
Henry, Scott M.  
Henry, Wenda P.  
Hermeling, Deborah R.  
Hicks, Kevin L.  
Hicks, Sharon  
Hicks, Lucas E. Sr.  
Hicks, Eva L.  
Hodges, Marion W.  
Hogge, Alonza A. Jr.  
Hogge, Edith M.  
\*Hogge, Joseph J. (PP)(CM)  
Hogge, Barbara W.  
Hogge, Mary B.  
Hogge, Sarah W.  
Hogge, Anna  
Honeycutt, Barbara A.  
Hudgins, Audrey F.  
Hudgins, Maywood  
Hudgins, Eva S.  
Hurman, Grace E.  
Hurst, Sandra C.  
Ingram, Helen G.  
Ingram, Cynthia G.  
Insley, Alberta  
Ironmonger, Irma C.  
Jaffeux, Linda F.  
Johnson, Samuel D.  
Johnson, Judy C.  
Johnson, David S.  
\*Jones, Frank L. (CM)  
Jones, Sue M.  
Jones, David  
Jones, Steve  
Jones, Christopher F.  
Jones, George L.  
Jones, Sharon A.  
Jones, Tony F.  
Jordan, Doris L.  
Kerwood, Jane T.  
Knight, Melissa L.  
\*Krowe, Raymond Jr.  
Krowe, Jean Ann  
Krowe, Jean Rae  
Lackey, Betty G.  
Lamb, Eugene B.  
Lamb, Frances  
Lamb, Stephen E.  
Lamb, Susan  
Lane, Cora  
Lassiter, James W.  
Lassiter, Emily B.  
Lassiter, Joseph P.

Lawson, John  
Lawson, Mildred  
Lawson, Rebecca Kay  
Lawson, Victor B.  
Layne, Arthur E.  
Layne, Wanda J.  
Layne, Arthur E. Jr.  
Layne, John A.  
Layne, Jeffrey S.  
Lee, Edith M.  
Lindsay, Lucy S.  
Llewellyn, John S. Jr.  
Loding, Arthur C. Sr.  
Loding, Theresa W.  
Loding, Cheryl D.  
Lusk, Sandra L.  
Mangus, James O.  
Majette, S. Carlton  
Majette, Hazel G.  
Majette, William C.  
Marchant, Emily L.  
Massey, Carl T.  
Massey, Dianna S.  
Mills, Brenda Sue  
Moore, Clarence A.  
Moore, Dorothy S.  
Moore, Charles F.  
Moore, Mary L.  
Moore, Clyde T.  
Moore, Myrtle B.  
Moore, Curtis B.  
Moore, Ethel L.  
Moore, Dorothy A.  
Moore, George  
Moore, Jessie E.  
Moore, Linda M.  
Moore, John Cary Jr.  
\*Moore, Joseph T. (WO)  
\*Moore, Ida S. (FC)  
Moore, Lloyd M. Jr.  
Moore, Willie Mae  
Moore, Thelma Rose  
Moore, Lucille M.  
Moore, Merritt E. Jr.  
Moore, Violet Mae  
Moore, Ottway B.  
Moore, Ola H.  
Moore, William T.  
Moore, Mary E.  
Moore, Vicki Nanette  
Moore, Kathy Lynne  
Moore, William V.  
Moore, L. Katherine  
Moore, William V. Jr.  
Moore, Mary P.  
Morris, Elizabeth A.  
Morris, Linda G.  
Mowry, Kathleen M.  
Mulford, Florence D.  
Myers, Florence F.  
Myers, Owen W. (TR)

Myers, Julia V.  
Myers, James O.  
Needham, Margaret K.  
Nolan, Beth  
Oliver, John  
Oliver, Louise  
Olsen, Robert L.  
Olsen, Rosa B.  
Olsen, Robert L. Jr.  
Osvold, Donald  
Osvold, Brenda  
Parvin, Carla J.  
Padelt, Opal A.  
Perdue, Joe D.  
Perdue, Annie B.  
Presson, Hazel M.  
\*Presson, Robert F. Jr.  
Presson, Hazel A.  
\*Presson, John W.  
Presson, Wallace F.  
Presson, Wanda Gail  
Presson, Walter Fay  
Quinn, Gloria June  
Ramsberg, Judith A.  
Rash, James Ned  
Rash, Etta H.  
Rash, John M.  
\*Rash, Jerry N. (NP)  
Rash, Phyllis  
Rash, Jimmy A.  
Rash, Margaret P.  
Revelle, Mary E.  
Reynolds, Sandi B. (WO)  
Reynolds, Harry L.  
Rich, Bernice W.  
Richmond, Margaret C.  
Riley, Mary Lou  
Riley, John D.  
Riley, Alice Marie  
Riley, Sarah Dale  
\*Riley, Robert H. Jr.  
Riley, Mary Frances  
Robinson, John E.  
\*Rohman, Dean  
Rohman, Lois  
Rohman, Timothy  
Rohman, Matthew  
Rowe, Margaret J.  
Rowe, William R. Jr.  
Sadler, Wayne  
Sadler, Carolyn  
Savage, Gladys D.  
Savage, Janet Lee  
Sawyer, Bruce E.  
Sawyer, Lloyd M. Jr.  
Sawyer, Teresa Ann  
Sealey, Doris M.  
Sechrest, Marvin S.  
Sechrest, Bonnie  
Sellers, LaNeil K.  
Sgroi, Lettie Riley

Shepherd, Jeanette M.  
Shepherd, Wendy  
Shields, Arthur H.  
Shields, Harry E.  
Shields, Marion B.  
Shields, Harry E. Jr.  
Shields, Raymond (TR) (PP)  
Shields, Evelyn S.  
Shields, Raymond W.  
Shields, Mary E.  
Shields, Robin  
\*Sirk, Phyllis (CM)  
Sirk, Mark  
Sirk, Beverly  
Sirk, Matthew  
Slavnik, Estelle M.  
Smith, Herbert J.  
Smith, Marylene W.  
Smith, Edith C.  
Smith, John F. Jr.  
Smith, Mildred G.  
Smith, Debra Ann  
Smith, Donna Marie  
\*Smith, Kirby T. Jr. (TR) (WO)  
\*Smith, Lillian T. (WO)  
Smith, Nathan T.  
Smith, Nancy L.  
Smith, James Kirby  
Smith, Ethel J.  
Smith, Agnes Jean  
Smith, Timothy Lee  
Smith, Wallace K.  
Smith, Lucy Gale  
Smith, Marion E.  
Smith, Marion V.  
Stafford, Carl H.  
Stafford, Marjorie P.  
Stafford, Carl H. Jr.  
Stafford, Barry G.  
Stafford, Scott W.  
Stafford, Joyce Lee  
Steiger, Marge  
Swicegood, John L.  
Swicegood, Phyllis A.  
Swicegood, John K.  
Swicegood, Stephen M.  
Tate, John R.  
Tate, Cornelius B.  
Terry, Bert Wilson  
Terry, Manford  
Terry, Hazel D.  
Thomas, Aleta Kay  
Thomas, James B.  
Thomas, Margery  
Thompson, Cynthia  
Tisdale, Rita Mae  
Topping, Joyce M.  
Tusler, Margaret  
Vaughan, Cynthia Y.  
Vick, Janice Kay  
Virostek, Sylvia M.

Wainwright, Sadie D.  
 Warnick, David W.  
 Warnick, Howard A. Jr.  
 Warnick, Henrietta L.  
 Warnick, Kathleen M.  
 Watkins, Carole W.  
 Wheldon, Robert E.  
 Wheldon, Wanda Marie  
 \*White, David D. Jr. (TR)  
 White, Elizabeth D.  
 White, David D. III  
 White, Linda  
 White, James Henry  
 White, Berta Craig  
 White, James Hope  
 \*White, James Earl  
 White, Pamela L.  
 White, Lucy Ann  
 White, Lloyd L.  
 White, Leora K.  
 White, Richard  
 White, Shirley S.  
 \*White, Robert E. (TR)  
 White, Marjorie S.  
 White, Wade G.  
 White, Agnes W.  
 \*White, William F. (PP)  
 White, Virginia R.  
 Wilbun, Johnson T.  
 Wilbun, Tommie Mary  
 Willer, Merle M.  
 Williams, Anita C.  
 Wilson, Alice G.  
 Wilson, George C. Jr.

Wilson, Holice H.  
 Wilson, Maynard R.  
 Wilson, Wilmer J.  
 Wilson, S. Malissa  
 Wilson, Okey Travis  
 Wilson, Margaret  
 Wilson, Toni Cheryl  
 Wilson, Raymond L. Jr.  
 Wilson, Stanley M.  
 Wilson, Norma Jean  
 Wilson, Larry Dean  
 Wilson, William C.  
 Wilson, Wilma Pratt  
 Wilson, W. Travis  
 Wilson, Martha M.  
 Wolford, Nancy R.  
 Wood, Jean E.  
 Wood, Janice P.  
 Wood, Robert R.  
 Wood, Delores L.  
 Wood, Sue M.  
 Wornom, John P.  
 Wornom, Dr. Paul H.  
 Wrenn, Helen M.  
 Wrenn, Nancy R.  
 Wrenn, Phillip M.  
 Wroten, Thomas E.  
 \*Yeager, Paul R. (FC)  
 \*Yeager, Catherine C. (FC)  
 \*Yeager, Sharon Kay (NP) (CM)  
 Yeager, David B.  
 Zobel, Debra A.

Total on Roll: 506



1977 Membership Class

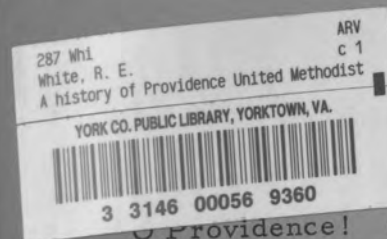
L - R - Jimmy Bohannon, Jamie Smith, Danny Green, David Ballard, E. W. Eagle, III, Annette Doggett, Wendy Sheppard, Kim Fairfield, Catherine Forrest, Tommy Fairfield, Tricia Bohannon, William Doggett, Marion Smith, Wanda Presson, Lisa Hayes and Rev. Wade Sirk.

## MEMBERS TO BE TAKEN IN ON EASTER SUNDAY 1978 (Certificate of Transfer)

Acree, Lucy Mae White  
 Lawson, John A. III  
 Lawson, Patricia Aubertin  
 Nice, John  
 Nice, Artha Jane  
 Thompson, William H. Jr.  
 Thompson, Marion B.  
 West, Gayle

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS TO BE TAKEN IN ON EASTER SUNDAY 1978 (Confession of Faith)

Gilbert, Terrill Lynn  
 Green, Rebecca Ellen  
 Green, Wallace Coleman Jr.  
 Lawson, Kimberly Ann  
 Middlebrooks, Ronald  
 Robinson, Laura Renee  
 Robinson, Kathryn Nicole  
 Thompson, Stephanie K.  
 West, William Jerry Jr.  
 Wilson, Michael Stanley  
 Wroten, Maymie Pritchard



## For Reference

*Not to be taken from this room*

O Providence! the best church of all the earth!  
After countless years we celebrate your birth!  
This is your birthday, so let us, you and me  
Come with our praises and give them to thee.  
Our thoughts of love and service let us bring  
As we show positive proof of our remembering.

O blessed church of one hundred twenty five years,  
We look back with thoughts of nostalgia and tears,  
Of courage we have seen in your founding people,  
As they built this place of worship with a steeple.  
Of faith for the doubtful hours and heedless ears  
As they struggled and strived forward without fears.

O blessed Providence! may your light ever shine  
As God's grace and glory fill your heart and mine.  
We are grateful to the builders of our house of stone  
And who now have passed on to their eternal home.  
May the generations who are left to carry the torch  
Grow in spirit and truth in the onward march.

O blessed Providence! so stately and kind!  
May all your descendants ever keep in mind  
Your mission and purpose as they go their way.  
May no false teachings tempt their feet to stray.  
May all those who share your heritage of fame  
Live nobler, richer lives and glorify your name.

By Neva B. Brooks

Written for the occasion of the 125th Anniversary.